

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
AND  
PRIVACY ACTS**

**SUBJECT: BARKER/KARPIS GANG  
BREMER KIDNAPPING**

**FILE NUMBER: 7-576**

**SECTION : SUB A - Section 18**



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

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SUBJECT Barker/Karpis Gang (Bremer Kidnapping)

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## N. U. STUDENT KARPIS' CHUM

ST. PAUL, May 7.—(AP)—A former Northwestern University pre-medic student who lived (unknowingly, he claimed) with the nation's toughest gangsters—Alvin Karpis, the Barker brothers, Harry Campbell—today testified in the Bremer kidnap trial.

James ("Jimmy") Wilson, 27, of Spring Valley, Ill., told the federal court jury trying eight defendants charged with conspiracy to kidnap Edward G. Bremer, that he went to Chicago in 1931, met Dr. Joseph P. Moran, fugitive physician, related to him by marriage, and obtained employment.

Oliver Berg, Joliet lifer, and one of the alleged conspirators, told of death threats hurled at him by the gang. He denied handling any part of the \$200,000 ransom.

Wilson said he drove Karpis and Fred Barker to the home of Berg, where Dr. Moran told him they were convalescing from operations.

CHICAGO HERALD & EXAMINER

7-576-A

MAY 8 1935



## EX-STUDENT AT N. U. IS WITNESS IN BREMER TRIAL

### Tells of Helping Dr. Moran "Fix" Fingers.

St. Paul, Minn., May 7.—(P)—A former Northwestern university pre-medical student who associated and lived, unknowingly he claimed, with the nation's toughest gangsters—Alvin Karpis, the Barker brothers, Harry Campbell—today testified in the Bremer kidnap trial.

James "Jimmy" Wilson, 27 year old youth of Spring Valley, Ill., told in the federal court trial of eight charged with conspiracy to kidnap Edward G. Bremer, how he became involved with the Barker-Karpis gang as an outgrowth of his desire to continue his medical studies in college.

He testified he went to Chicago in 1931 and there met Dr. Joseph P. Moran, fugitive physician who is related to him by marriage, and obtained employment with the understanding that Dr. Moran would aid him, financially, so he could continue at Northwestern university.

Joliet Lifer on Stand.

Preceding Wilson was Oliver Berg, lifer at the Illinois state prison, one of the alleged Bremer conspirators. Berg told of death threats hurled at him by the Barker-Karpis gang. He denied he ever handled or exchanged any part of the \$200,000 Bremer ransom.

Although the Bremer conspiracy charge against Bruno [Whitie] Austin, Chicago, has been dismissed, it was learned, he was still held tonight "for investigation." He was not brought to trial with the others because of insufficient evidence linking him with the abduction.

Wilson said he drove two strangers, whom he later learned were Alvin Karpis and Fred Barker, dead gangster, to the home of Berg at the request of Dr. Moran. Wilson said the physician told him they were convalescing from operations for burns on their hands, but he subsequently discovered they underwent surgical operations to obliterate their fingerprints.

Drives Barker to Toledo.

Wilson said he drove Fred Barker to Toledo at the request of Dr. Moran and there became acquainted with Campbell, who was introduced to him at the time as "George Winfield."

"One day Dr. Moran came to Campbell's home," Wilson testified. "Winfield, Curley, and Morley were there [Campbell, Volney Davis, and Doc Barker]. Dr. Moran asked them if they were 'all set,' because he was ready to go to work. I suspected he intended to do the same operations as he did in Chicago on Shorty and Slim [Fred Barker and Karpis]."

"At this point I called Dr. Moran into the kitchen and he told me he was going to operate on these men and wanted me to help. I asked him if it wasn't against the law. He said: 'There's no law against surgery in any part of the human body except for gunshot wounds, which must be reported.' Wynona Burdette also was there."

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
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Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Edwards .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Ladd .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Rosen .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Mr. Carson .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
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Mr. Nease .....  
Mr. Smith .....  
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Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Gurnea .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Hendon .....  
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Mr. Nease .....  
Mr. Smith .....  
Mr. Tamm .....

CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE

7-576-A

MAY 8 1935

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- Mr. Edwards
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Keith
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Scheidt
- Mr. Schilder
- Mr. Smith
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Tracy



**AT BREMER TRIAL**—John J. ("Boss") McLaughlin (center) leaves court after a session of the Bremer kidnap trial. Mrs. Edna Murphy (at left) was released by the government. Next to her is a deputy. At right is J. J. Wilson, another defendant.

International News photo.

CHICAGO HERALD & EXAMINER

7-576-A

MAY 8 1935

THE DETROIT NEWS.

1934

## BLAMES DOCTOR IN BREMER CASE

Ex-Student Testifies. Physi-  
cian's Orders Involved Him  
With Gangsters.

ST. PAUL, May 8.—(P)—Government counsel in the Edward G. Bremer abduction trial primed its guns today for an attempt to tear down the testimony of James J. Wilson, 27 years old, former Northwestern University student, and one of the eight defendants.

Wilson told yesterday of how he unwittingly associated with Barker-Karpis gangsters, unfolding a story that began with his desire to obtain funds for continuation of his college studies, and ended with his arrest by Federal agents.

He said he left his home town of Spring Valley, Ill., to go to Chicago to assist Dr. Joseph P. Moran, fugitive Bremer suspect, in his office, and subsequently became involved with Alvin Karpis, the Barker brothers, Harry Campbell and other Bremer defendants as a result of obeying orders of his employer.

Wilson denied he gave Dr. Moran the "lead" to John J. (Boss) McLaughlin, also on trial, as testified by John L. Madala, Federal agent.

"It is absurd to think I gave Dr. Moran the lead," Wilson said. "I told Madala I didn't give Dr. Moran that lead, and I did not tell him McLaughlin was 'in the racket.'"

Previously Madala, as a Government witness, testified Wilson made there statements which are contained in a written confession of Wilson introduced in evidence.

Wilson admitted he drove Fred Barker, dead Barker-Karpis gangster, and Alvin Karpis to the home of Oliver Berg, another defendant, after Dr. Moran performed surgical operations to mutilate their fingerprints, but he said he had no knowledge of their real identity.

Mr. Nathan  
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Mr. Carson

7-576-A

# CONFESSION OF WILSON GOES IN COURT RECORD

## Witnesses Failed to Show Duress by Agents, Court Holds

Earlier details page one.

Judge M. M. Joyce ruled late today in St. Paul federal court that the defense had failed to show that department of justice agents used third degree methods to get James Wilson, youthful chauffeur who acted as go-between in changing of the \$200,000 Edward G. Bremer ransom, to confess his part in the kidnaping crime.

The ruling, a severe blow to counsel defending Arthur (Doc) Barker and seven others on kidnap charges, admits into evidence a statement in which Wilson tells how Doctor Moran operated on the fingers of Alvin Karpis, Fred Barker, Doc Barker and Harry Campbell to obliterate their fingerprints.

Two character witnesses were to the stand on behalf of J. J. (Boss) McLaughlin, Chicago politician, after Wilson's statement was admitted as evidence. They were John H. Alcock, deputy commissioner of the Chicago police department, and George Durphy, Chicago warehouse executive. Both said they had known the defendant nearly 40 years, and that his reputation as to honesty and integrity had been good.

### Knew of Kidnaping

In the confession Wilson admits, it was learned from the government's attorneys, that both he and Moran knew the four ring-leaders operated on had committed the kidnaping of the St. Paul banker and that they wished to conceal their fingerprints for that reason.

It was brought out during questioning of Brown that Lew Nichols, dismissed agent who has testified in the Barker trial, was summarily discharged from the federal service for having mishandled a suspect.

Judge Joyce's ruling followed several hours of testimony taken while the jury was absent from the court in a defense attempt to show that the Wilson confession could not be admitted because it had been obtained under duress.

### Blow at Defense

In getting the confession into the record, the government scored an additional heavy blow to chances of defendants on the stand of freeing themselves from the kidnaping conspiracy charges. Judge Joyce let the confession be read to the jury only after he had closely questioned both R. D. Brown and John Medala, the federal agents Wilson claimed beat him.

It was believed that the ruling struck a heavy blow at the chances of other defendants who, it was revealed this morning in Wilson's testimony, have planned to claim third degree methods when they take the stand in their own behalf.

Following Wilson's testimony, R. D. Brown was called to the stand by George A. Halsey, assistant United States district attorney. He emphatically denied laying a hand on Wilson and declared that Wilson had behaved "like a perfect gentleman" while at the department's office in Chicago.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Scheidt	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Smith	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

# *Third Degree Ruling*

## *Hits Kidnap Defense*

*Minneapolis Star*  
*May 8, 1935*

*7-576-11*

St Paul Daily News  
May 8 - 1936

## DR. MORAN'S NEPHEW CLAIMS AGENTS VICIOUSLY ASSAULTED HIM AT CHICAGO QUESTIONING

Bremer Case Witness  
Tells Court "G-Men"  
Broke Tympanum In  
Ear By "3d Degree."

Third degree methods allegedly resorted to by "G-men" of the department of justice as they sought to wring a confession from him were described in federal court today by curly-haired James Wilson, youthful defendant in the Edward G. Bremer kidnap case.

The former Northwestern university medical student told of being stripped of his clothing, handcuffed to a chair, of being beaten until he bled profusely, as defense attorneys fought doggedly to block introduction of a confession given by him to government agents.

Defense attorneys charge the statement was obtained by duress and force, and therefore is not admissible.

### Afraid Of Karpis.

During the two-hour session on the witness stand, while the jury was excused by Judge M. M. Joyce, who heard Wilson's dramatic story so he could decide whether to admit the statement, Wilson was forced to answer question after question fired at him by George Halsey, assistant United States district attorney, who sought to break his story and by Judge Joyce, who wanted to clear up certain points in his testimony.

Wilson was visibly confused by the relentless questioning.

The witness admitted to the court that he is afraid of members of the Karpis-Barker gang who are not on trial "not so much for myself as for my family." He fears Alvin Karpis, he said, because he has testified that the gunmen had his fingers mutilated to prevent identification.

"I'm not afraid of Doc Barker in the position he is in," Wilson said.

### Claims Beating



Severely beaten by federal agents in Chicago because he failed to identify a photograph of Oliver (Izzy) Berg was JAMES WILSON (top), chauffeur for the fugitive Dr. J. P. Moran, he declared today in federal district court as defense attorneys endeavored to block admission to evidence of a statement Wilson signed. Wilson named two agents, youthful JOHN L. MADALA (below) and Ralph D. Brown, both of whom have been witnesses in the Bremer kidnaping trial of Barker-Karpis gangsters.

9-576-A



The witness charged that he was assaulted once by Agents R. D. Brown and John L. Madala in the department of justice offices in Chicago and later by Agent Cowley, killed by Baby Face Nelson, in a room of the Great Northern hotel. Here, he charged, he was stripped of his clothes and handcuffed to a chair.

#### Ear Tympanum Broken.

The witness told Judge M. M. Joyce, who will decide whether the government agents used the third degree, that he was beaten so badly about the face and head that he suffered a broken tympanum in his right ear, a broken blood vessel in his head and injuries to his throat and face.

The government scored heavily when it blocked introduction of a defense exhibit, a statement of a doctor who treated Wilson after the beatings and describing the injuries.

According to the witness, the beatings occurred soon after he returned from Denver in September, 1934. He described how he was taken into an office in the department of justice headquarters and shown two pictures, one of John J. McLaughlin and the second of Berg.

He identified the picture of McLaughlin but was unable to identify Berg's because it was an old one and hazy.

"Out of a clear sky, they beat me," he said. "Blood was running from my nose and mouth."

#### Identifies Statement.

Later he testified he identified the picture to avoid another beating.

In court today was John H. Alcock, first deputy commissioner of Chicago police, who said he had been subpoenaed as a character witness for McLaughlin.

James Wilson returned to the stand as the morning session opened for cross-examination by George A. Halsey, assistant United States district attorney.

"When you came here to testify (Continued On Page 2, Col. 2.)

before the grand jury you were paid expenses?"

"Yes."

"You were perfectly willing to cooperate with the government?"

"Yes."

"You talked to Agent John Madala freely at Spring Valley, Ill.?"

"Yes."

"You merely saw Fred Barker and Alvin Karpis hands bandaged in room 234 at the Irving hotel?"

"Yes, for all I know Dr. Moran might have cut their fingers off."

"You drove Fred Barker to Berg's house?"

"I think so. Both of them might have been in there."

The witness was then shown government's exhibit 115, his first statement and he identified his signature on each page.

#### Argue Over Document.

Efforts to introduce the statement in evidence brought objections from defense attorneys. The objections were overruled and Thomas Newman, one of defense counsel, again protested.

"Your honor," Mr. Halsey addressed the court, "this witness has testified that he always has cooperated with the government. I wish to show that such is not the case."

Defense attorneys went into a huddle with Judge Joyce and after several minutes the jury was excused pending a hearing on how the statement was obtained and its authenticity.

#### Says "G. Men" Beat Him.

With the jury out of the room, Wilson was questioned concerning the statement.

By Mr. Newman.

"What was the date you were first taken to the Chicago bureau of investigation?"

"The day after I appeared at the Denver office. That was Labor day, 1934 so it must have been around Sept. 4."

"Now when you got there what happened?"

"I was fingerprinted and photographed. I was then shown pictures of McLaughlin and Oliver Berg. I couldn't recognize Berg. Agent Brown told me they would give me another chance to recognize the picture. Madala also was there. Out of a clear sky they started to beat me. Brown on one side and Madala on the other. They did that twice and then I said I would identify any picture to avoid a beating. Blood was running from my nose, mouth and ears. Purvis was consulted and told them to take me to a doctor on Washington st. I had severe head pains but couldn't go to a doctor during my lunch hour. That evening I went to another doctor. He told me I had a broken tympanum of the ear and numerous other head injuries. I asked this doctor to write out a

statement of his findings and this was done."

#### State Fights Statement.

The statement was introduced as defendant's exhibit G.

Mr. Halsey launched a vigorous fight to block receiving of the statement and his objections were upheld by the court.

Mr. Newman continued his questioning.

"You did not know this doctor?"

"No, I asked the tavern keeper for the best doctor in the neighborhood, and he told me to go see this one. That was on the west side of Chicago."

"Why isn't he here to testify for you?"

"I haven't the money to get him here."

"When did the beating take place?"

"Almost as soon as I was taken in there. It was a continuous pounding on face and head for two or three minutes. They left the room, and came back shortly, took off their coats and started in again. When I was bleeding, they started to question me and I told them I would identify anything to avoid a beating. They let me out in the afternoon about 2:30."

#### Handcuffed To Chair.

"How do you know Agent Brown was to see Purvis about a doctor?"

"He told me."

"Did you ask for a doctor?"

"Yes, because I was getting severe head pains."

"What then?"

"Brown said he would see what could be done."

"When did he say this?"

"After I had signed the statement."

"After you had seen the doctor, what then?"

"I went to my home at Spring Valley."

"I understand you were called to the Chicago office again?"

"Sept. 22 or 23. I was stripped of my clothing and placed in my room. Agent Cowley (killed by Baby Face Nelson) came in the room and said you dirty —, you went around telling people we busted your ear drums. He hit me in the mouth. He then told me to write a statement which I started. He took it away from me and said 'that isn't what we want. If you don't do what we want, we know how to treat you.' It was cold and I asked for my clothes and they gave me my pants and shoes. They later took me to the Great Northern hotel. There they put me under guard. Later they said they were going to take me up to the top floor of the building. I was handcuffed to the chair while they were questioning me."

#### Taken To Aurora.

"After I had answered the question, Agent Madala took me to Aurora to point out the houses. While we were there, I signed a statement after they reminded me what had happened to me in the previous visit to the department."

"Is that why you signed government exhibit 115?"

"Yes. I told them there were several statements in there that couldn't be true, but Cowley told me to sign it and tell the grand

jury exactly what is in there if I knew what was good for me."

#### Beaten Second Time.

Mr. Helgey started cross-examination of the witness.

"You say you got to Chicago, Sept. 4?"

"No, I called the Denver office the day after Labor day and go to Chicago, Sept. 6?"

"That isn't what you said in direct examination."

"I said I wasn't sure. I don't know how long it would take to go from Denver to Chicago."

"What time of the day did you go to the Chicago bureau office?"

"I got in about 7 a. m. I don't know how long after I got there before Brown and Madala came in."

"And they beat you as soon as you couldn't identify Berg?"

"Yes."

"Is that the only reason they beat you?"

"Yes."

"Agent Cowley didn't beat you?"

"No, I didn't see him until Sept. 22."

"You know he was killed by Baby Face Nelson?"

"Yes."

"And they beat you a second time?"

"Yes. They came in and said, 'we don't like to do this,' and started in again. As far as I know they only used their fists."

"Did they tell you you should recognize him because you had been drinking with him?"

#### Asked If Pals Beat Him.

"Yes, as soon as they told me it was Berg, I said, 'Why, yes. He is a patient of Dr. Moran's.'"

"Where did they find out that you had been drinking with Berg?"

"I don't know."

"You didn't tell them that?"

"Not until afterwards."

"Were you afraid to talk?"

"In a way, yes."

"After you were released in the afternoon, did you see any friends of yours?"

"Just a tavern keeper who told me what doctor to see."

"You are sure that some of your former friends didn't beat you up after you left the bureau office?"

"Positive."

Denies Altitude Caused Bleeding.

"Did you make a statement that day?"

"Yes. I signed it before a notary public."

"Did you have any marks or bruises on your face?"

"I don't know whether the marks had time to show. My jaw felt swollen, but I didn't have a mirror. My ear had been bleeding but I stopped that with my handkerchief."

"The only thing you complained about was your ear?"

"Yes, and pains in my head."

"The altitude of Denver didn't cause your ears and head to pain after your sudden trip back to Chicago?"

"No."

Purvis Recommended Doctor.

"When you came in on the morning of Sept. 6 or 7, that was the first time you had ever been in the Chicago bureau office?"

"Yes."

"You say the picture of Berg shown you was an old one?"

"It didn't resemble him."

"Do you recognize this picture?"

"Yes, it's Oliver Berg."

"Was this shown you at that time?"

"I don't think so."

"You say after the beating, Brown went to Purvis and Purvis recommended a doctor?"

"Yes, on 55 E. Washington st."

"You didn't go to see him?"

"No. I didn't have time at noon-time."

"Why didn't you go to him when you were released at 2:30 p. m.?"

"Because I went to the other one."

"Why did you go to him?"

"The tavern keeper told me to. This tavern keeper is a relative of my wife."



#### Denies Framing Story.

"Why, I ask you again, didn't you go to Purvis' doctor?"

"Because I had to have an appointment and I wanted attention right away."

"Didn't you know other doctors in the same building that Purvis' doctor was in?"

"I know there were others there, yes."

"Isn't it the truth that you are framing this story?"

"I'm not framing this story."

"Are you afraid of Doc Barker, Campbell, Karpis and their friends?"

"I'm not afraid of Doc Barker in the position he's in."

"Afraid of any other of his friends?"

"If I were on the outside, I would be."

"But isn't it a fact that you are framing this story because you don't want it to appear to those friends of his still out that you didn't talk voluntarily?"

"No, I didn't frame this story."

#### Questioned By Judge.

Judge Joyce took up questioning of the witness.

"Why are you afraid of those not on trial?"

"Not so much for myself as for my family."

"What do you fear?"

"In view of the fact that I have testified that Karpis had his fingers mutilated."

"Who did you meet when you came into the department of justice offices?"

"Madala was in a group that met me at the train."

"Brown and Madala and you were the only ones in the room?"

"Yes."

"You realize you are under oath. Who hit you first?"

"Brown."

"Are you sure you realize what you are saying?"

"Brown was on my right side and the blow came from there."

"When you left were you worried about your condition?"

"Yes. I was worried about the condition of my head."

"You asked for a doctor and they gave you an address within six blocks and instead you went four blocks to a doctor?"

"When Brown gave the address, was told by Cowley to be back at p. m. I only had a half hour so could not."

"You say the men came back and"

#### COURT ADMITS CONFESSION.

Judge M. M. Joyce today admitted the confession given to department of justice agents by James Wilson. "It is my opinion," the judge said, "that the defendant Wilson was accorded no such treatment as he spoke of. Therefore I admit the statement in evidence." Wilson had charged the confession was beaten from him. The ruling was a staggering blow to the defense.

Charges that he had used third-degree methods to get a confession from James Wilson, one of the eight persons on trial in federal district court for conspiracy in the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, were denied late today by R. D. Brown, department of justice agent.

Called to the stand as Judge M. M. Joyce continued hearing of testimony to determine whether the confession made by Wilson was given under force and duress and thus inadmissible, Brown denied he had assaulted the 27-year-old former Northwestern university medical student.

"I ask you did you ever strike Wilson?" George Heisey, assistant United States district attorney, asked Brown.

"No, never in my life," the agent replied.

The agent stated a department rule prohibits mistreatment of prisoners and that agents who resort to such tactics are subject to dismissal from the service.

While the testimony was being given, the jury still remained outside the courtroom.

The jury still was absent when court convened as Judge M. M. Joyce still was hearing testimony bearing on the admissibility of James Wilson's statement.

#### Agent Brown Called.

Agent R. D. Brown was called to the stand with George Heisey, assistant United States district attorney, questioning.

"Were you present at your office when Wilson was brought in?"

"Yes. That was at a. m. Sept. 6 in my small office at the rear of the large bureau office."

"Did you talk with him that morning?"

"Yes. I talked with him on general subjects, and the country around Tabernash, Colo., with which I am familiar. I have relatives there. Jimmy told me he had a headache and his ears rang. We decided it was because of the altitude out there (Colorado)."

"Did he say anything about Dr. Moran?"

"Yes. He thought he would see Dr. Moran out there."

## HANDCUFFED TO CHAIR ALL NIGHT, WILSON CHARGE

Shackled by One Wrist as  
Agents Tried to Force State-  
ment, He States.

### 'ONE EAR DRUM BUSTED'

Eyes Flash as Former Chicago  
Student Tells of 'Bru-  
tality.'

Brutality at the hands of two  
Federal agents was charged by  
James J. Wilson, 27-year-old former  
Northwestern university student,  
testifying in his own behalf in the  
Bremer kidnap trial in Federal  
court.

He is one of eight defendants  
charged with conspiracy in the  
\$200,000 abduction of Edward G.  
Bremer, St. Paul banker.

Fighting against admission of a  
written statement signed by Wil-  
son, Thomas Newman, attorney for  
the defendant, brought from the  
lips of the witness that he was  
beaten about the head, face and  
body by John L. Madala and Ralph

Brown, two Department of Justice  
agents, when he was in custody  
last September.

#### Queried About Beating.

Asked by Mr. Newman how long  
the beating continued, Wilson testi-  
fied:

"It was a continuous pounding on  
top of the head, face and side of  
the ears. It continued for probably  
two or three minutes.

"Then the two agents stepped out,  
came back with their coats off and  
started out again. They wanted me  
to identify a photograph, (Oliver  
Berg).

"At first I told them to keep on.  
Then later I told them I would say  
it is any one to get away from this  
beating. I was bleeding."

The brutality charges were aired  
in the absence of the jury, which  
was excused by M. M. Joyce, Fed-  
eral judge, following a motion by  
Newman for a collateral inquiry to  
ascertain the circumstances under  
which the statement was obtained.  
Newman charged the statement was  
given involuntarily and thereby  
sought to prevent its admission in  
evidence.

#### Visit to Tavern Described.

The crowded court room listened  
intently as Wilson, curly-haired  
youth attired in a light gray suit  
and with eyes flashing, described

(Please Turn to Page 4, Col. 2.)

### SAWYER MAY BE ASKED TO TALK ON 'POLITICS'

Harry Sawyer, the collapsed  
kingpin of St. Paul's under-  
world, probably will be re-  
quested to talk politics on his  
return here.

Sawyer can officials believe,  
explain the testimony of By-  
ron Bolton, Karpis-Barker  
gang gunner, a government  
witness in the Bremer kidnap  
trial.

Bolton said that Sawyer ve-  
toed a proposal to loot the Com-  
mercial State bank, of which  
Edward G. Bremer, the kidnap  
victim is president, and in-  
sisted on carrying out the ab-  
duction.

"That means just one thing,"  
observed a St. Paul police ex-  
ecutive. "It means that Sawyer  
had orders to put 'heat' on St.  
Paul."

"There obviously are political  
angles to this case," he con-  
tinued, "and Sawyer will be  
questioned about them when he  
is returned here."

### Slugged?



JAMES WILSON.

Charges that he was beaten  
by Federal agents were made  
today by James Wilson, one  
of the eight defendants on trial  
in Federal court for the Ed-  
ward G. Bremer kidnaping, on  
the witness stand in his own  
defense. Wilson, 27-year-old  
former Northwestern university  
student, said the beating was  
administered in the course of  
efforts to obtain a confession  
from him following his arrest.

how he went to a tavern near the Department of Justice offices in Chicago after he was released and inquired for a doctor so he could get medical treatment.

Wilson also described how he was stripped and beaten by a third agent as he sat with one hand handcuffed to a chair on the nineteenth floor of the Bankers building in Chicago. He claimed he was handcuffed all night and that the Federal agents tried to get him to write a statement with the other hand. Once, when he became cold because he had on no clothes, he said he called for his trousers and shoes and they were brought to him.

Wilson also said Samuel Cowley, Federal agent who later was killed by George "Baby Face" Nelson, told him it will be "just too bad" if he didn't tell everything and that he cursed him after charging that Wilson "went out and told people you had an ear drum busted."

After cursing him, Wilson testified, Agent Cowley struck him a blow in the mouth.

Wilson also said that after he had been beaten the first time, Agents Madala and Brown came into the room, that one of them said "We don't like to do this," but immediately started to again pummel him.

#### Stripped, Put in Room.

"I was first stripped of my clothes and placed in a room with a cot in it," Wilson said.

When the previously was taken in custody, Wilson had claimed that he told persons that the agents "busted an ear drum of mine."

Cross-examined by George Heisey, assistant United States district attorney, the former Northwestern university student was asked "What did you do about it when they began to beat you?"

"What could I do?" Wilson asked, as if in anger. "I couldn't fight back. It was useless. There were two men."

Heisey sought admission of the statement to show that Wilson, contrary to his statement on direct examination, did know that Alvin Karpis and Fred Barker had undergone operations for mutilation of their finger prints.

Tells of hrdl Theg shrdlunueu

#### Tells of Questioning.

Wilson said that after questioning him at the Department of Justice offices he was taken by Agent Connors to a hotel and into a room on the second floor. Shortly afterward, he said, the telephone rang and after a brief conversation the agent hung up the receiver.

"The agent said it was Melvin Purvis and he wanted to know on what floor we were," Wilson quoted Connors as saying. "He said to take you up to the top floor."

The witness said that at this time he asked Connors: "What are you going to do, pitch me out of the window?"

Wilson said Connors told him that he did not know.

Wilson said that when they were ready to release him at noon, with an admonition to come back at 5 P. M. he asked the agent for the name of a doctor from whom he could get medical treatment as a result of his beating. He said the agent left the room for a few moments and returned with a slip of paper with the name and address of a doctor, who, according to the agent, was recommended by Mr. Purvis.

Wilson said he did not go to a

doctor that afternoon but when he returned that afternoon for questioning the written statements quoting him were prepared and the agents asked for his signature.

"I told them that some things in there were not true," Wilson testified, "but one of the agents said to me, 'What do you care about them. Those things are true anyway.'"

#### Says He Affixed Signatures.

Wilson said they promised to release him if he would sign the statements and that he did affix his signature to each page.

On cross-examination Heisey failed to shake the youth's story about the brutality. At one point Heisey asked him if, since he had studied medicine, he could tell how a mastoid developed.

Wilson flashed back: "I am not qualified as a physician and surgeon. I can't answer that."

The bitter fight over the admissibility of the statement waged throughout the morning session. It was reported that Brown or Madala, or both, may be recalled as witnesses in further attempts to preclude introduction of the statement in evidence.

At one time, where Heisey pressed the witness for an answer concerning his activities, virtually all the attorneys at the defense table protesting simultaneously, asserting "that's improper questioning and unfair." Among them were Robert V. Rensch, Jerome Hoffmann, John DeCourcy and Eugene Matthews.

Heisey cross-examined the witness extensively in an effort to show that his story of the assaults was false, but Wilson replied, "Mr. Heisey, I am not framing any story."

He then was asked whether he was afraid of "Doc" Barker or any of the other gangsters. He said he had no fear of Barker because of "the position he is in." Asked whether he feared "Doc's" friends, however, Wilson said, "if I were on the outside, I would say yes."

Judge M. M. Joyce then interposed to ask Wilson why he was afraid of the men in question. Wilson replied "I am not particularly afraid for myself, but for my mother and sister." Asked the reason for this, he said, "Because I have been reading in the newspapers how desperate these men are." He added: "In view of the fact that Alvin Karpis' finger prints have been mutilated and that these men are keeping away from the law, and I have testified their prints were mutilated."

#### ALCOCK EXPECTED TO BE M'LAUGHLIN WITNESS.

John H. Alcock, first deputy police commissioner of Chicago, was in the Federal court room here today where eight defendants are on trial for the Edward G. Bremer kidnaping.

He is expected to testify as a character witness for John J. (Boss) McLaughlin, Chicago politician, who is one of the defendants. McLaughlin is accused of supervising the transactions connected with exchanging the ransom money.

# ARGUMENT OVER INTRODUCTION OF STATEMENT WAGES

## JUDGE ACCEPTS STATEMENT.

Expressing the opinion that no such treatment had been accorded James Wilson as that to which Wilson had testified, Federal Judge M. M. Joyce ruled this afternoon that a signed statement by the defendant might be admitted as evidence. Wilson asserted previously he had signed the statement after being beaten by Department of Justice agents.

Emphatic denial that they beat or mistreated James J. Wilson, former Northwestern university medical student, was made today by two Federal agents from the witness stand in the Federal court trial of Wilson and seven others for conspiracy to kidnap Edward G. Bremer.

The government recalled Ralph Brown and John L. Madala, Department of Justice operatives, to refute Wilson's story earlier in the day that he was beaten unmercifully about the head, face and ears before he signed a written statement.

The agents' testimony was given during a collateral inquiry hearing before Judge M. M. Joyce and a crowded courtroom, with the jury excused during the arguments, as a fight that started early in the morning over introduction of a written statement by Wilson still waged this afternoon.

Questioned by Thomas Newman, Wilson's attorney, the young defendant claimed that it was necessary for him to enlist the services of a doctor after the agents stripped him, handcuffed one hand to a chair and intermittently pummeled him about the head and face.

Brown, asked by George Heisey, assistant United States district attorney, whether he struck Wilson

either on September 6, 1934, or subsequent to that time, answered emphatically:

"I did not. I never struck Jimmy Wilson in my life."

"Did you take good care of him?" asked Heisey.

"Yes, I did," the agent answered.

Madala, who followed Brown on the stand, also denied that he at any time maltreated Wilson.

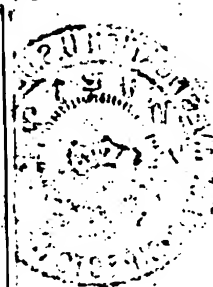
"In fact," Madala said, "Wilson and I were very friendly and we had a friendly discussion."

Federal Judge M. M. Joyce also questioned Brown concerning the practices of the Department of Justice with reference to the treatment of persons in custody.

"Has it been your practice to handcuff men to chairs all night?" asked the court.

"Yes, if they are dangerous," Brown replied.

RECEIVED



SEP 11 1934



St. Paul Dispatch  
May 8-1935

Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. Clegg ✓  
Mr. Glavin ✓  
Mr. Ladd ✓  
Mr. Nichols ✓  
Mr. Rosen ✓  
Mr. Tracy ✓  
Miss Gandy ✓

## KIDNAP TRIAL FIGURES



Life was rosier today for Mrs. Edna (Rabbits) Murray and Jess Doyle because the Federal government dismissed charges Monday connecting them with the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer. Mrs. Murray and Doyle appear at the top as they chatted in the county jail. At the right below is Byron Bolton, alleged Karpis Barker gang gunner, who testified for the government in the trial and whom Mrs. Murray described as "a sneak" who redeemed "his ticket for the hot seat with lies." At the left below is Bruce (Whitey) Austin, one of the kidnap defendants. Dismissal of kidnap charges against him is expected before adjournment today.

7-576-A

# BREMER ABUSE TACTICS CITED

ST. PAUL, Minn., May 8 (I.N.S.)—An amazing story of third-degree methods allegedly used by Chicago Federal agents today was told by James Wilson, defendant in the trial of Barker-Karpis mobsters charged with the \$200,000 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul bank president.

The jury was excluded from the courtroom while Wilson testified and defense attorneys tried to explain to trial judge M. M. Joyce why a signed statement by Wilson should not be admitted as Government evidence.

## Shown Two Pictures

On September 4, 1934, at the Chicago office of the Federal division the youthful chauffeur for the fugitive Dr. J. P. Moran, was fingerprinted and photographed, he said; then was shown pictures of John J. "Boss" McLaughlin and Oliver "Izzy" Berg. The witness said:

"I couldn't recognize Berg. Agent Ralph D. Brown told me they would give me another chance to recognize the picture. John L. Madala, another agent, also was there.

"Out of a clear sky they started to beat me, Brown on one side and Madala on the other. They did that twice, and then I said I would identify any picture to avoid a beating. Blood was running from my nose, mouth and ears."

Wilson then said that Madala and Brown consulted with Melvin Purvis, then head of Chicago Department of Justice, and it was agreed that the agents would "take me to a doctor."

aturday in

WASH. TIMES

7-576-A

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

## ALCOCK AIDS M'LAUGHLIN

ST. PAUL, May 8.—(AP)—Deputy Commissioner of Police John H. Alcock of Chicago testified he knew John J. ("Boss") McLaughlin as a law abiding citizen, at today's session of the Edward G. Bremer kidnap trial.

Alcock was the first of two witnesses for the former Chicago politician on trial as a principal money changer of the \$200,000 ransom paid for the release of Bremer, a St. Paul banker.

He was questioned by attorneys for the government as to his knowledge concerning a mail robbery at Clark and Adams sts., Chicago, for which McLaughlin also was indicted. He replied:

"I have only a recollection of reading something about it in the newspapers."

George Durphy, Chicago, general manager of a tile manufacturing company, said he had known McLaughlin forty years and that his reputation was good.

Emphatic denial that they beat or mistreated James J. Wilson, former Northwestern medical student, was made by two federal agents from the witness stand this afternoon in the federal court trial of Wilson and seven others for conspiracy to kidnap Edward G. Bremer.

Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Baughman	✓
Chief Clerk	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Coffey	✓
Mr. Edwards	✓
Mr. Egan	✓
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Keith	✓
Mr. Lester	✓
Mr. Quinn	✓
Mr. Scheidt	✓
Mr. Schilder	✓
Mr. Smith	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

7-576-A

CHICAGO HERALD & EXAMINER

MAY 9 1935

# FEDERAL AGENTS DENY HAMMERING BREMER SUSPECT

## Witness Tells Change in Finger Prints.

St. Paul, Minn., May 8.—[Special.]—James Wilson, charged by the government with having been go-between during changing of the \$200,000 Bremer kidnaping ransom, today declared in the federal court of Judge M. M. Joyce he was beaten so hard "they broke one of my ears," in telling of his confession of his part of the crime.

Ralph Brown and John Madala were the two special department of justice agents whom Wilson charged "hammered a confession out of me in the nineteenth floor office of the justice department in Chicago."

### Both Deny Charges.

Brown and Madala both denied Wilson's charges and Judge Joyce declared he was of the opinion that the prisoner was not abused.

Judge Joyce had excused the jury from the courtroom where Wilson, Arthur [Doc] Barker and six others are on trial for the Edward G. Bremer abduction. Wilson was the second defendant to take the stand. Ollie Berg, hotel convict, testified previously that Wilson's statement was made under duress.

Wilson said he was handcuffed to a chair by one hand while he wrote a statement with the other.

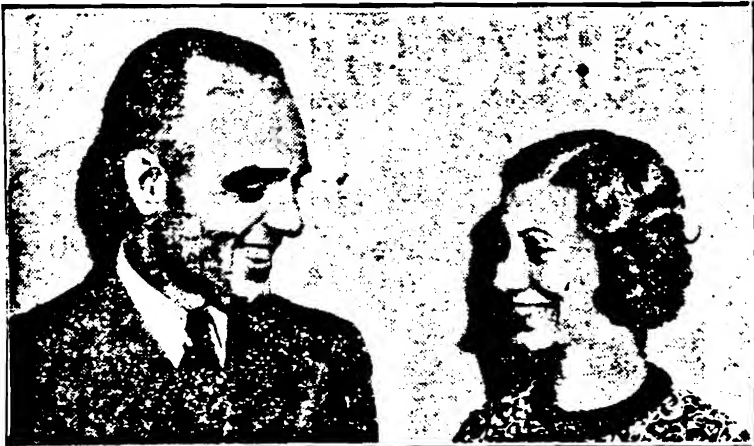
Wilson began his testimony late Tuesday. He denied knowledge of the kidnaping, exchange of ransom money or complicity in mutilation of finger prints of the Barker-Karpis gang members.

### U. S. Charges "Split" Demand.

The government had contended that he was aware of what was going on, that he once demanded a "split" of the ransom money, and that in working as office assistant and chauffeur for Dr. Joseph Moran, fugitive gang physician, he cooperated with the kidnap conspirators in illegal activities.

Wilson was asked about a finger print operation performed in the Irving hotel, Chicago, by Dr. Moran and two men. He described how the operations were performed and how the men were taken to the rooming house. Later Wilson said he drove

## FACE NEW CHARGES



Although the government dismissed charges against them in the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer in trial now being held in St. Paul, Mrs. Edna Murray, sometimes known as the "kissing bandit," and Jess Doyle face new trials. Mrs. Murray is to be returned to Missouri, where she escaped from a penal institution, while Doyle is wanted in Minneapolis on a bank robbery charge.

[Associated Press Photo.]

*W. J. [Signature]*

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Scheidt	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Smith	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE

7-571-A

MAY 8 1935



THE DETROIT NEWS, THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1935.

## SAYS FEDERAL MEN BEAT HIM

Defendant in Bremer Case  
Charges Statement Was  
Obtained by Force.

ST. PAUL, May 9.—(P)—The prosecution in the Bremer kidnap trial, armed with an alleged written confession already admitted in evidence, today hoped to wrest from James J. Wilson, former Northwestern University medical student, a verbal admission that he knew Barker-Karpis gangsters underwent operations to obliterate their fingerprints.

Cross examination of Wilson who with seven others is on trial for conspiracy in the abduction of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, was not completed yesterday and Government counsel indicated he would be called to the stand again today.

Portions of a written statement by Wilson admitting, contrary to previous direct testimony by the defendant, that he was aware Dr. Joseph P. Moran, fugitive physician, operated on Alvin Karpis, now at large, and Fred Barker, dead mobster, to erase their fingerprints, was placed in the record over the strenuous protest of the defense.

Wilson asserted the statement was secured by force. He charged he was beaten about the head, face and ears by two Federal agents to force him to sign the statement. The jury was sent from the room and after a half-day hearing the written statement was entered in the record.

The defendant insisted that two agents, Ralph Brown and John L. Madala of Chicago, stripped him of his clothing, handcuffed him to a chair in the Chicago offices of the Department of Justice and beat him on the head and shoulders.

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E.A. Tamm  
Chief Clerk  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Pennington

7-576-A

MAY 9 1935

NEW YORK EVENING JOURNAL

## BREMER QUIZ AIDES ACCUSED

ST. PAUL, May 9.—James Wilson could "take it" as a tough gangster as long as he was with his pals, but when he entered the Federal Department of Justice offices in Chicago and faced the agents there he folded up like an accordion, he said, in effect, here as he testified in the Edward Bremer \$200,000 ransom-kidnap trial.

Wilson's attorneys asked that a signed statement or confession of his offered by the Government be withheld from evidence, because he made it they charged, after he was beaten by the agents.

With the jury absent, Wilson said:

"They wanted me to identify pictures of John J. ('Boss') McLaughlin and Oliver ('Lucky') Berg. When I couldn't identify Berg, Agents Brown and Medala, one on each side of me, suddenly gave me two clouts, both walloping me unmercifully. They beat me twice, and after that I would identify any picture to avoid a beating."

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Schuler	.....
Mr. Smith	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

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7-576-Fl

St. Paul Daily News  
May 9 - 1935

## Took Cash To Bank As Favor To McLaughlin, Witness Tells Court

William E. Vidler, one of the alleged money changers in the Edward G. Bremer kidnap case, took the witness stand in federal district court late today in an effort to clear himself of the charges.

The 35-year-old World war veteran, questioned by his attorney, A. Jerome Hoffman, told the jury how he came to exchange a part of the Bremer ransom cash.

"As a favor" for John J. McLaughlin, Vidler said he took a bundle of bills into a bank to exchange it for larger bills.

"He handed me a package rapped in paper," the witness said. "When I saw the package I asked him if it was counterfeit and he was very gruff and wanted to know what I thought he would try to pull off on me."

### Vidler Testifies

William E. Vidler, one of the defendants, was the first afternoon witness. He was questioned by A. Jerome Hoffmann. He said he was 35 years old, born in Chicago, married, has two children. He had three years of high school education, worked for a time as a messenger, and is a World War veteran.

"Have you ever been convicted of a felony?"

"Yes, when I was 19 I used an automobile without the consent of the owner."

"Were you employed early in 1934?"

"I was in the auto business on the north side of Chicago."

"How long have you known John J. McLaughlin?"

"I have known him seven or eight years."

"When were you arrested in connection with this matter?"

"April 26, 1934, on a Thursday."

"You have heard all the testimony here?"

### Called To Ask Favor

"Yes."

"Early in April did you have a chance to see McLaughlin?"

"I called him regarding a friend

of mine who had lost his civil service job. I saw him April 17 at my home, 5001 N. Ashland ave., Chicago. I gave him the details of my friends' predicament, and he said he would see what he could do. After we had completed our conversation regarding my friend, he asked me where I was doing my banking. I told him I wasn't doing much banking in those days. He told me he had a friend who wanted some small bills changed into larger ones. I told him I would take some to the bank my firm used to bank in. Two days later he came to my home again. It was April 19, 1934. He renewed the conversation about the bank. He said he had the money with him, and asked me if I would change the money. He had his automobile outside, and there he introduced me to Delaney. I was seated in the back seat. Delaney drove and Mr. McLaughlin was in the front seat with Delaney. When we were in the car I asked him how much money he had. He handed me a package wrapped in paper. When I saw the package I asked him if it was counterfeit, and he was very gruff and wanted to know what I thought he would try to pull off on me."

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Keith  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Schilder  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

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Newley

7-576-17

St. Paul Daily News

May 9 - 1935

Handwritten notes and stamps in the top right corner, including a circular stamp with the word "RECEIVED" and a list of names.

## Editorials

\* \* \* \* \*

### GETTING AT THE FACTS

OUTSTANDING in the Bremer kidnaping trial to date has been the absence of the usual befogging technicalities and tricks by the defense.

This is not to say that the defense attorneys have not attempted the old and tried methods but the court has refused to acquiesce. Throughout Judge M. M. Joyce has insisted that all pertinent evidence be placed before the jury and has resisted all efforts to becloud matters by purely technical objections.

A striking instance was his ruling that the confession of the defendant Jimmy Wilson be permitted and his decision that Wilson's story of being beaten up by federal agents was not credible. This old trick of charging the "third degree" in order to arouse sympathy did not work this time.

This is the kind of trial guidance we are always supposed to get under our court system but too seldom receive. It shows what can be done when there is a determination to see that pertinent evidence is presented.

No matter what the outcome, the conduct of the Bremer trial by the judge has been a refreshing exhibition. More of this kind of justice and there will be less organized crime.

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7 576-A

## WILSON FAILS TO TELL JURY BEATING STORY

Testimony Closes, Although  
Court Permitted Him to  
Recite Charges.

### WITNESS TRIPPED UP

Contradicts Own Assertions on  
Stand and in Signed  
Statements.

Testimony and cross-examination of James Wilson in his own defense was concluded today without presentation to the jury of testimony brought out in a collateral hearing Wednesday that Wilson was beaten by Federal agents to obtain information.

Wilson is on trial with seven others for conspiracy to commit the \$200,000 ransom kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer here early in 1934.

Thomas J. Newman, Wilson's attorney, permitted by Judge M. M. Joyce to present the evidence of the alleged beating to the jury if he desired, ended his client's appearance on the stand without taking advantage of Judge Joyce's ruling.

#### Tripped Repeatedly.

On cross-examination today, Wilson was tripped up repeatedly on signed statements he made to Federal agents and contradicted his own testimony or the signed and sworn statements. Time after time Wilson attempted to explain wide variance or direct opposition between statements he made on the witness stand on direct examination and those he made in writing to the Federal agents.

This followed an expression of opinion by Judge Joyce from the bench Wednesday that Wilson did not receive the beatings he swore the agents administered to him.

Resuming the stand today, Wilson was cross-examined by George A. Heisey, assistant United States attorney, in an effort to refute his previous testimony regarding his lack of knowledge of the kidnaping case. At one point Heisey made the witness read a portion of his own statement, in which he said:

"After Mr. McLaughlin took the package, he and Berg walked to the door and had a private conversation. I did not ask Berg about it, because previously I talked to Dr. Moran and from what he told me I had a conviction that 'hot' money was being exchanged or sold."

He referred to John J. (Boss) McLaughlin and Oliver Berg, defendants in the case charged with exchanging portions of the \$200,000 Bremer ransom for other money; and to Dr. Joseph Patrick Moran, Wilson's uncle, a fugitive in the case accused of taking part in the exchange transactions and of operating to obliterate the fingerprints of such gangsters as Arthur (Doc) Barker, another defendant; Fred Barker, later slain; and Alvin Karpis, Harry Campbell and Volney Davis, all fugitives.

#### "Not Words I Used."

After reading the excerpt, Wilson said: "Those were not the words I used. It was the way I thought it happened."

Heisey then brought out in his examination that Moran received \$300 each for the fingerprint operations performed on Doc Barker, Campbell and Davis and gave Wilson \$100 of it.

Before Wilson took the stand, Dr. Henry J. Way of Chicago testified as a character witness for McLaughlin, saying the defendant had "an excellent reputation in Chicago."

7-576-A

St. Paul Dispatch  
May 9 - 1935

Enforce  
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- Mr. Barker
- Chief Clerk
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Fox
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Jones
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Starnes
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Egan

In Bremer Trial



St. P. Press



John H. Alcock, first deputy police commissioner in Chicago, testified in the Bremer kidnaping trial Wednesday as a character witness for John J. McLaughlin, Chicago politician and one of eight defendants. The police official, shown at the top, said he had known McLaughlin for 35 or 40 years. In the lower picture is Bruno Austin who was brought to St. Paul shortly before the trial opened and held in the county jail in connection with the kidnaping. Charges against him have been dismissed, but he is held for investigation.

BOOKIE  
TESTIFIES  
IN OWN  
DEFENSE

William (Bill) Vidler, Chicago bookman, arrested a year ago with \$3,000 in Bremer ransom money in his possession, testified today in his own behalf in Federal court trial of Vidler and seven others on charges of conspiracy to kidnap Edward G. Bremer.

On direct examination by his attorney, Jerome Hoffman, Vidler said he was 35 years old and has a wife and two children living in Chicago. He also testified he had known John J. (Boss) McLaughlin, former Chicago political leader, for seven or eight years, having met him through business association.

Vidler said he formerly was in the automobile business in Chicago on the North Side and admitted, on questioning by his own attorney, that he was convicted of a felony when 19 years old. The charge, Vidler, said, was for using an automobile without the owner's permission.

Vidler, fashionably dressed in a wine-colored suit, red necktie and silk handkerchief in his suit coat pocket, spoke in a clear voice and readily answered all questions. He sat in the witness chair with his legs crossed.

Smiley

7-576-A



# SAWYER TO FACE HARD GRILLING TODAY

Harry Sawyer will be given a chance to talk today.

The former St. Paul underworld kingpin is to be asked "a lot of questions" today by G-men in the Ramsey county jail where he was taken Thursday night as he was brought to St. Paul from New Orleans, La.

Sawyer's return home was kept secret by federal government authorities but there were several friends at the union station to greet him. Handcuffed, first to a New Orleans U. S. marshal and later to a St. Paul marshal, Sawyer greeted his friends with a smile and a cheery "hello" before being hustled into a waiting automobile for his trip to the jail.

Called "Finger Man."

Sawyer is here to answer federal government charges of being the "finger man" in the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer for whose snatching eight defendants are now on trial in federal district court. Testimony of Wynona Burdette and Byron Bolton, two gang members, placed the former St. Paul czar "on the spot."

William E. Vidler, alleged money changer, made an impressive witness on his own behalf Thursday as he told the jury he did not know he was exchanging Bremer ransom money. He said the first knowledge he had was after his arrest when Melvin Purvis, director of the Chicago office, G-men, told him it was Bremer money he had been peddling at the various Chicago banks.

When arrested he had nearly \$3,000 of the ransom money on his person. He said that more than \$300 of that money was returned to him as it was not ransom cash.

## Withstands Quiz.

He stood up under the cross-examination sticking to his story that at no time during his money exchanging activities did he know it was ransom money. His statement given to the federal authorities carried out his contention that he did not know it was Bremer money until told so by Agent Purvis.

Vidler will be on the stand for a short time today for cross examination and he will be followed by another alleged money changer—Philip Delaney, charged by the government with having exchanged \$34,000 of the ransom cash.

## Disputed Berg Pictures



Both of these pictures are of OLIVER J. (IZZY) BERG, harboring and money-changing defendant in the Bremer kidnaping trial, but James J. Wilson, nephew of and chauffeur for the fugitive Dr. J. P. Moran, claims he didn't recognize the one on the right when federal agents showed it to him in Chicago last fall and therefore was beaten. Disbelieving his story, Trial Judge M. M. Joyce agreed with the statement of federal agents that Wilson had been shown the picture at the left and had no trouble in identifying it.

## RELEASE EDNA MURRAY AS DEFENSE WITNESS

Edna Murray, freed by the government of charges in the Edward G. Bremer kidnaping case, today was released as a defense witness and Missouri officials planned to return her to Jefferson City, Mo., immediately to face charges of escaping from prison.

The attractive Miss was ordered released as a witness by Judge M. M. Joyce after Arthur (Doc) Barker said he had no objection to vacating of a federal court order under which she had been held. The woman escaped from prison in Missouri where she was serving a term of 25 years for robbery.

As trial of the remaining eight defendants continued late today, Philip Delaney continued on the witness stand telling of his part—unknown to him, he claims—in the exchange of the ransom cash.

### Didn't Know Money "Hot."

Mr. Delaney went back on the stand as the afternoon session opened. Delaney testified he never knew or suspected that the money he changed was ransom money. He also said the Dolores Delaney girl mentioned at the trial is not a relative of his.

The witness also said he had never met Arthur (Doc) Barker, Alvin Karpis or Harry Campbell. Robert Rensch, attorney for John J. (Boss) McLaughlin, questioned the witness.

"Do you know that McLaughlin

in any way had 'fixed' a bank?"

"No."  
"And as far as you know the money had no connection with the Bremer ransom money?"

"None at all."

Mr. Rensch then moved that all of Delaney's testimony bearing on the ransom money be stricken, as it was not shown in anyway that the money was ransom money. Asst. U. S. Atty. George Halsey interposed to say that the money all came from identified packages and so it must have been the ransom money. Judge M. M. Joyce overruled Rensch's motion.

### Didn't Know Arrest Made.

Thomas McMeekin, attorney for Delaney, resumed questioning. "At the time you signed the statement April 27, did you know you were under arrest?"

"No, sir."

"Did you know when you were questioned you were giving the government evidence?"

"No, sir. I was giving the facts."

Questioned again by Mr. Halsey, the witness said he did not recall reading about the kidnaping. He also said he did not talk with McLaughlin at his home about the exchange of the ransom money. He recalled McLaughlin and Vidler talking about the money on one occasion but said he was "too busy at the time driving to pay any attention."



May 10, 1935

## Alleged Bremer 'Finger- man' Brought Here From South, To Face Thorough Grilling.

This was announced by federal officials today as trial of Arthur (Doc) Barker and seven others continued before Judge M. M. Joyce with William Vidler and Philip Delaney, alleged money-changers, on the witness stand to explain their part in the exchange of ransom cash.

A single-horse delivery wagon stood near Hotel St. Paul when the Bremer kidnapping trial jury started its parade to the federal building.

A single-horse delivery wagon stood near Hotel St. Paul when the Bremer kidnaping trial jury started its parade to the federal building. The jury stopped. Forgotten were kidnapers, money-changers, G-men. "A fine animal," commented one. "He'd pull a plow easy—but maybe the ground's still too wet," said another. "I'd like him for a team," said a third. But the city-bred bailiff had his eye on his watch rather than horseflesh. "Let's go!" he urged. The jurors—for nearly a month away from their farms—shuffled along for another day of kidnaping testimony.

### Vidler Defense Ends.

Two character witnesses were called in behalf of Delaney and both testified that Delaney has an excellent reputation as a law-abiding citizen and for his character. When they had completed their testimony, Mr. Delaney took the stand.

**Vidler Exchanged \$30,000.**

He then was cross-examined by Mr. Halsey.

approximately \$24,000?"  
"Yes."

about 15.5 - 16.5

Busean

7-576-F

"What guess would you make as to how campaign funds were in McLaughlin's possession?"

"I thought they were left over and that was the reason he didn't want to be seen changing the money himself."

Mr. Heisey again questioned the witness and, after Vidler had stated he didn't think it was suspicious that he waited while McLaughlin visited the Irving hotel, he was excused.

#### Vidler Rests Case.

Mr. Hoffman then announced that his defendant, Vidler, rested his case.

Thomas McMeekin, attorney for Philip Delaney, then called William C. Crolius as a character witness for his client. . . former mayor of Joliet, Ill., Mr. Crolius said he is of the opinion that Delaney's reputation for honesty and integrity is excellent. He also said his reputation as a law abiding citizen is excellent.

Mr. Heisey asked the witness if he knew that Delaney's truck was stopped in 1927 and he was found in possession of illegal liquor.

"I don't know the charges. In fact I don't even know what he is charged with," the witness replied.

"If you knew he was convicted would that make any difference to you?"

"I know him so well, I know the boy wouldn't do anything seriously wrong."

Clarence Pfundstein, another resident of Chicago and in the wholesale and detail oil products business, was the next witness for Delaney. He said he also knows Delaney as an honest man.

Delaney then was called to the stand.

#### Delaney Was On Relief.

Delaney said he is 54 years old, is married and has a 14-year-old daughter. He testified he has known McLaughlin since 1910 and has been "very friendly" with him. McLaughlin often helped him to find a job or financially aided him, the witness said.

In March, 1934, the witness said, McLaughlin called him and "said he wasn't feeling very well and wanted me to drive him around town."

"Was he paying you for driving him?"

"From time to time."

The witness testified he was living on relief at the time. He said he did not know Vidler until he and McLaughlin picked him up April 19. He told of driving from bank to bank.

"How much money did Mr. Vidler change?"

"I haven't any idea."

"Did they question you in the bank when you changed the \$4,000?"

"No, sir."

"Then what did you do?"

"I gave McLaughlin the money."

"For how many days did this continue?"

"Until April 26, five or six days."

"And each day you changed \$4,000 at the bank?"

"Yes."

"Did you have some discussion with Vidler regarding the money?"

"Yes, about the third day while we were waiting for McLaughlin at Irving Park boulevard. It was shortly after the primary election. There was a good deal of money thrown into the political workers and I thought the boys were holding out on ward workers."

#### Money Source Unknown.

"Did you think that was why McLaughlin didn't want to change the money?"

"Yes."

"Did you talk to Boss McLaughlin about that at any time?"

"No. I never at any time asked him where the money came from. The first morning he told me he got it from a friend but that's all."

"Did you at any time think it was money from a bank robbery?"

"No."

"In your statement, you say you thought it might be bank robbery money. Are those your words?"

"No. I think there was a mistake there."

"Did you use the words 'hot money'?"

"No."

"Did you ever think it was counterfeit money or ransom money?"

"I did not. The first I learned of

that was in the department of justice office."

"Did you read of the Bremer kidnapping?"

"If I did, I don't remember it. I don't know anybody in St. Paul and the story would have made no more impression than a dust storm in Kansas."

#### Got No Percentage.

"Did you read the statement through which I have here?"

"Pretty well. It was dictated to me too."

"Was there any talk about your receiving a split on the money changed?"

"No. The first day he asked me if I had any money at home and when I said no He gave me \$20. That was on Thursday. On Saturday he gave me \$50 to get a suit of clothes. The next money I got was the next Wednesday. He gave me \$100 to get the car fixed. I did this and had about \$50 left which Boss said I could keep."

Vidler made an impressive witness on his own behalf Thursday as he told the jury he did not know he was exchanging Bremer ransom money. He said the first knowledge he had was after his arrest when Melvin Purvis, director of the Chicago office, G-men, told him it was Bremer money he had been peddling at the various Chicago banks.

When arrested he had nearly \$3,000 of the ransom money on his person. He said that more than \$300 of that money was returned to him as it was not ransom cash.

#### Withstands Quiz.

He stood up under the cross-examination sticking to his story that at no time during his money exchanging activities did he know it was ransom money. His statement given to the federal authorities carried out his contention that he did not know it was Bremer money until told so by Agent Purvis.

Vidler will be on the stand for a short time today for cross examination and he will be followed by another alleged money changer—Philip Delaney, charged by the government with having exchanged \$24,000 of the ransom cash.

## Guards Bremer



As closely guarded as the Barker-Karpis mobsters on trial for the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer are the papers and documents at which GEORGE F. SULLIVAN, United States district attorney, is looking. They constitute the evidence for the government—and Mr. Sullivan carries them with him constantly, from his office to the courtroom, to his hotel room, to the restaurant.

St. Paul Dispatch

May 10, 1935

## DID NOT KNOW SOURCE OF ROLL, VIDLER INSISTS

Chicago "Bookie" Admits He  
Passed About \$30,000 of  
Bremer Ransom.

### QUESTIONED M'LAUGHLIN

Suspect Says He Asked, "John,  
Where Are You Getting All  
This Money?"

Steadfastly denying he had knowledge of the character or source of kidnap ransom money he exchanged, William (Bill) Vidler, Chicago bookmaker, resumed the witness stand in his own defense on a charge of conspiracy to abduct Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker.

On cross-examination by George Heisey, assistant U. S. district attorney, the 35-year-old "bookie" on trial with seven others, including Arthur (Doc) Barker, readily admitted he passed approximately \$30,000 in various Chicago banks, and said he received the money from John J. (Boss) McLaughlin, Chicago political leader who is one of the defendants.

#### Says Delaney Passed \$24,000.

Vidler, the third alleged conspirator to testify in his own behalf, also related how, accompanied by Mr. McLaughlin, he and Philip Delaney, also on trial, exchanged the five-dollar and ten-dollar bills for currency of larger denominations. He testified that Delaney passed \$24,000.

"On the third day of my money-changing work," Vidler, speaking in a clear voice and without hesitation, said, "I discussed things with Mr. McLaughlin. I said, 'John, where are you getting this money; you are not getting out of line on this, are you?' He then asked me what I was worried about. He said the money came from a friend of his and that there was nothing wrong with it, as I found out myself. I was not worried, I was curious."

#### Saw Campaign 'Cut In.'

Vidler testified he was under the impression that McLaughlin had "cut in" on campaign funds. He related, during cross-examination, that the three drove to a point near the Irving hotel, Chicago, after exchanging the money and that McLaughlin would get out, leave for a period of from 15 to 30 minutes and then return.

"Did you know where he was going," Heisey asked.

"No," the witness answered.

During the cross-examination, Jerome Hoffmann, attorney for Vidler, objected to the "insinuations" and manner of questioning by Mr. Heisey, whom he charged with being "unfair to the witness."

Immediately after the first question concerning Vidler's criminal record was asked by Mr. Heisey when court opened, Hoffmann protested, whereupon at the request of Mr. Heisey the jury was excused for a few minutes.

Then, Heisey attempted to show that Vidler was convicted twice for grand larceny instead of once as testified by the defendant Thursday. It finally was brought out, after a series of questions by both Hoffmann and Heisey directed at the witness, that he was sentenced to Joliet prison on a charge involving the theft of two automobiles but that he served one term for three and a half years.

Vidler in explaining the crime for which he was convicted brought out that he had stolen one car, taken it for a "joy ride" and abandoned it on the street. Later, he testified, he stole another car and was arrested as he was driving out of a garage, where he had a tire repaired.

He said that he admitted voluntarily when he was in custody that he stole both cars.

Bureau

7-576A

# **BREMER CASE SUSPECT DELIVERED AT ST. PAUL**

By the Associated Press.

NEW ORLEANS, May 10.—Sidney Freudenstein, United States marshal, announced today that Harry Sawyer, one of the alleged kidnapers of Edward G. Bremer, Minnesota banker, had been delivered to Federal authorities at St. Paul.

Sawyer was taken to St. Paul by train secretly under instructions from Washington that no announcement should be made of his removal until he had been delivered at St. Paul.

Sawyer, alleged "finger man" in the Bremer kidnaping, was arrested May 3, near Pass Christian, Miss.

Mr. Nathan ☒  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Chief Clerk .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Edwards .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Fox .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Ladd .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Rosen .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Mr. Carson .....  
Mr. Hendon .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Nease .....  
Mr. Gurnea .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Mohr .....  
Mr. Pennington .....  
Mr. Nease .....  
Mr. Gurnea .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Mohr .....  
Mr. Pennington .....

WASH. STAR

7-576-A

MAY 10 1935

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Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Chief Clerk .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Edwards .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Keith .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Scheidt .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Smith .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Mr. Gandy .....

## SECOND BREMER CONSPIRATOR TO PLEAD HIS GUILT

St. Paul, Minn., May 10.—(P)—Elmer Farmer, former Bensenville, Ill., tavern keeper under indictment as one of the actual kidnapers of Edward G. Bremer, will plead guilty to the conspiracy charge for which he is on trial with Arthur [Doc] Barker and six others, Thomas W. McMeekin, his attorney, announced tonight.

McMeekin said Farmer's plea will be entered as soon as the defense rests its case, probably next Monday or Tuesday.

Byron Bolton of Chicago previously had pleaded guilty, his sentence to life imprisonment being discretionary with

the court. Bolton also was indicted as an actual kidnaper.

A confession by Farmer already has been put in the trial record. He identified members of the gang as the kidnapers of Bremer, told his part in arranging for the detention of Bremer in the home of Harold Alderton at Bensenville, and said he performed contact services for the gang while Bremer was a captive there.

McMeekin's announcement was made at the conclusion of today's session, when John J. [Boss] McLaughlin, 68 year old former Illinois legislator, left the witness stand after testifying in his own behalf. He admitted "handling" \$57,000 of the \$200,000 ransom paid for Bremer's release, asserting that Philip Delaney and William Vidler, both of Chicago, and also defendants, helped him exchange the money at various banks.

Vidler and Delaney admitted handling money for the former political boss, but denied any exact knowledge of the nature of the funds they exchanged.

Vidler, completing testimony begun yesterday, admitted exchanging \$3,000 of what the government claims was ransom money. He testified Mc-

Laughlin assured him "there was nothing wrong" with the money and that he was under the impression the politician had "cut in" on campaign funds.

Delaney admitted exchanging \$24,000 given him by McLaughlin, but said he believed it was from a campaign fund and asserted that at no time were his suspicions aroused to the point where he thought it was "hot" money.

The defendant also disclaimed acquaintance with others, except McLaughlin and Vidler, charged by the government with complicity in the kidnaping.

7-576-A

CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE

MAY 11 1935

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Chief Clerk .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Edwards .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Keith .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Scheidt .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Smith .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Mr. Vandy .....

## TAVERN OWNER ADMITS PART IN BREMER CRIME

**Farmer Will Plead Guilty as  
Defense Rests; McLaughlin  
Tells of 'Passing' Ransom**

ST. PAUL, Minn., May 10.  
—(A.P.)—Elmer Farmer, former Bensenville, Ill., tavern keeper under indictment as one of the actual kidnapers of Edward G. Bremer, will plead guilty to the conspiracy charge for which he is on trial with Arthur ("Doc") Barker and six others, Thomas W. McMeekin, his attorney, announced tonight.

McMeekin said Farmer's plea will be entered as soon as the defense rests its case, probably next Monday or Tuesday.

McMeekin's announcement was made at the close of today's session, when John J. ("Boss") McLaughlin, 68-year-old former Illinois legislator, left the witness stand after testifying in his own behalf. He admitted "handling" \$57,000 of the \$200,000 ransom paid for Bremer's release, asserting that Philip Delaney and William Vidler, both of Chicago, and also defendants, helped him exchange the money at various banks.

7-576-A

CHICAGO HERALD & EXAMINER

MAY 11 1935

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Chief Clerk .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Edwards .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Keith .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

THE KANSAS CITY TIMES. SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1935.

## TO ADMIT BREMER GUILT

GUILTY PLEA WILL BE ENTERED  
BY ELMER FARMER.

Under Indictment as One of the  
Actual Kidnapers, He Will Con-  
fess Conspiracy for Which  
He Is on Trial.

(By the Associated Press.)

ST. PAUL, May 10.—Elmer Farmer, former tavern keeper of Bensenville, Ill., who is under indictment as one of the actual kidnapers of Edward G. Bremer, will plead guilty to the conspiracy charge for which he is now on trial with Arthur (Doc) Barker and six others, Thomas W. McMeekin, his attorney, announced tonight.

McMeekin said Farmer's plea would be entered as soon as the defense rested its case, probably next Monday or Tuesday.

7-576-17



Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Chief Clerk .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Edwards .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Keith .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Schmidt *es* .....  
Mr. Schilder .....  
Mr. Smith .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....

**2 TO CONFESS**

**BREMER CRIME**

*7-576-A*

## PAIR IN CHARGE OF HIS HIDEOUT TO PLEAD GUILTY

**Alderton Claims He Didn't Know Captive Was St. Paul Banker**

**DOC BARKER WILL  
REMAIN SILENT**

**Sawyer to Fight Charges;  
Trial Expected to End  
by Mid-week**

McLaughlin admits money changing,  
Page 5.

Harold Alderton, occupant of the Bensenville, Ill., house where Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul kidnap victim, was kept prisoner for 22 days, and Elmer Farmer, Bensenville tavern keeper who allegedly arranged the hideout quarters for the kidnapers, will plead guilty to conspiracy charges at the close of defense testimony in the Bremer trial in St. Paul federal court, it was indicated today.

By throwing themselves on the mercy of the court instead of sending their cases to the jury with those of six other defendants, Farmer and Alderton's pleas indicated an end to the four weeks' old trial by Wednesday or Thursday.

Thomas McMeekin, counsel for Farmer, said he had informed Judge M. M. Joyce and United States Attorney George F. Sullivan of Farmer's intention.

### **Alderton to Plead Guilty**

Alderton, implicated in statements given by himself and Farmer to government agents upon their arrest early this year, also will plead guilty, according to a reliable source.

Alderton testified before the grand jury which indicted 22 persons for the kidnaping, as did Farmer and James Wilson, chauffeur for Dr. Joseph P. Moran, alleged chief of the ransom money changers. Alderton will base his plea for a light sentence upon the claim he did not know the identity of the captive preceding his arrival at the farmhouse.

Subsequently, Alderton was deterred from reporting the case to police, he contends, because he feared such action would jeopardize Bremer himself as well as the family of Alderton's brother at Kokomo, Ind., whom the captors mentioned to Alderton during the 22-day vigil.

### **Barker to Remain Silent**

Arthur (Doc) Barker, only actual member of the gang that reputedly executed the kidnaping, will maintain his silence to the end, it was believed.

Edna Murray, originally one of 10 defendants on trial, but against whom the charges were dismissed, today was released to Missouri penal authorities to complete serving a 25-year term. John DeCourcy, Barker's attorney, gave notice Friday of the Barker's acquiescence to such a release.

While the conspiracy case against eight of the 22 persons named in the federal indictment neared the end, Harry Sawyer, alleged finger man in the abduction and former St. Paul underworld character, laid plans to fight the conspiracy charges.

### **Sawyer to Fight Charges**

DeCourcy and Eugene O'Sullivan, Omaha criminal attorneys, have been retained by Sawyer.

Trial of Sawyer probably will be delayed until the November term of court, federal authorities indicated. By that time, they hope to have taken into custody more members of the Barker-Karpis mob. Fugitives now include Alvin Karpis, Volney Davis, Harry Campbell, William Weaver and Moran. Opinion has been expressed that Moran may have been slain by gangsters.

*Minneapolis Star*  
*May 11, 1935*

Mr. Jones  
Mr. Smith  
Mr. Brown  
Mr. White  
Mr. Green  
Mr. Black  
Mr. Taylor  
Mr. Clark  
Mr. Adams  
Mr. Baker  
Mr. Carter  
Mr. Evans  
Mr. Foster  
Mr. Gibson  
Mr. Hall  
Mr. King  
Mr. Lewis  
Mr. Miller  
Mr. Moore  
Mr. Parker  
Mr. Roberts  
Mr. Scott  
Mr. Turner  
Mr. Walker  
Mr. Young  
Miss Gandy

St. Paul Daily News  
may 11 1935



**HAROLD ALDERTON.**



**ELMER FARMER**

With court adjourned over the week-end, counsel for the eight defendants were scheduled to gather today to make final plans for the presentation of their case to the jury.

Present indications are that when the jury gets the case next week there will be but six defendants whose guilt or innocence the nine men and three women will have to consider.

**Will Decide Today.**

Harold Alderton, at whose home Mr. Bremer was held captive for 22 days, and Elmer Farmer, the Bensenville, Ill., tavernkeeper who made arrangements with gangsters for the hideout in Alderton's home, are ready to plead guilty. This will be definitely decided today.

Both Alderton and Farmer appeared before the federal grand jury here last January and it was their testimony along with that of Byron Bolton, who already has pleaded guilty, and Jimmy Wilson which paved the way for the indictment of the 22 living persons and four dead members of the Barker-Karpis gang.

Alderton in his statement to federal agents said he feared for his life as well as that of his brother and the latter's family as the reason for not reporting the Bremer hideout while the St. Paul banker was held captive.

### McLaughlin On Stand.

Farmer's contention was that he did not know he was arranging for a hideout of a kidnap victim. His was of the opinion, he said in his statement, that the mobsters were to hide someone who had "jumped bail."

The defense case reached its final stages Friday, when John J. (Boss) McLaughlin took the stand on his own behalf. He told the court and jury that because of his long friendship with Dr. Joseph P. Moran, fugitive believed slain since the money transactions, he did not ask Dr. Moran where the money came from. He said he got \$250 for each \$10,000 he cashed.

At adjournment time Friday he had testified of three transactions. He is alleged to have made six, all told, for a grand total of \$57,000.

7-576-A

St. Paul Daily News  
May 11 - 1935

## ALDERTON AND FARMER TO ADMIT CONSPIRACY

The possibility of two more defendants in the Bremer kidnaping trial pleading guilty after the defense rests its case Tuesday or Wednesday appeared certain today.

With court adjourned over the week-end, counsel for the eight defendants were scheduled to gather today to make final plans for the presentation of their case to the jury.

Present indications are that when the jury gets the case next week there will be but six defendants whose guilt or innocence the nine men and three women will have to consider.

### Will Decide Today

Harold Alderton, at whose home Mr. Bremer was held captive for 20 days, and Elmer Farmer, the Benvenille Ill. tavern keeper who made arrangements with gangsters for the hideout in Alderton's home, are ready to plead guilty. This will be definitely decided today.

Both Alderton and Farmer appeared before the federal grand jury here last January and it was their testimony along with the of Byron Bolton, who already has pleaded guilty, and Jimmy Wilson which paved the way for the indictment of the 22 living persons and four dead members of the Barker-Karpis gang.

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St. P. File

7-576-A

St. Paul Daily News

May 11, 1935

# TIP FROM BOLTON FOILED JAIL ESCAPE

## Feared Gang Invasion To Get Revenge

Note Asked Sheriff To  
Investigate; **Karmell**  
Admits He Worked 10  
Days Preparing Break.

(Copyright, 1935, St. Paul Daily News.)

It was **Byron Bolton**, confessed kidnaping ringleader who turned government witness against his former gangland pals in the Bremer kidnaping case, who discovered and blocked an attempted break from the Ramsey county jail.

This was learned from an unimpeachable source by The Daily News today as **Stanley Karmell**, nabbed late Thursday night as he was about to clamber out a second floor window for his second escape from the jail where Barker-Karpis gangsters are housed, signed a confession in which he stated:

A length of wire obtained from a ventilator aided his efforts.

He found saw blades apparently hidden above a window frame.

There were loose bricks underneath the window.

A loose iron bar from a bed, left on top of a cell cage, was used to loosen other bricks and mortar and tile.

Mortar and cement he dug out from around the bricks easily disposed of by wrapping them in newspapers and putting them in a garbage can.

He carried on his work over a period of 10 days.

He first ripped a bed sheet into strips, found it wasn't strong enough when tied together as a ladder, and "ducked it" where it remained unfound.

He obtained a blanket from a cell other than his own, tied it into a ladder after splitting it into strips, and hid it until needed.

In an unsigned note to Sheriff Tommy Gibbons, delivered a few hours after the sheriff and a federal inspector had made a tour of the jail, without discovering any evidence of the forthcoming break attempt.

### Find Bars Loosened.

This information came to light today as Sheriff Gibbons, who previously had been reported as having noticed a loose board from the window sill while making the inspection tour with J. H. Strief, federal inspector of county jails, made

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2.)

known that Karmell had first attempted to place the blame for the attempted break on Bolton.

In his first "confession" Karmell, according to Sheriff Gibbons, declared that Bolton and Isadore Tanelloff, another prisoner, had urged him to dig a tunnel through the second floor walls of the jail that all three could get out.

Karmell's later signed statement admits his first "confession" was frame-up to implicate Bolton because he suspected the latter he warned Gibbons.

When the note was received Sheriff Gibbons and several deputies rushed to the second floor block and discovered Karmell sitting at the window sill. The bricks and plaster around the bars had been loosened and could be removed with the slightest pressure. To escape all that was necessary was to push open a screen. A "ladder," made of torn blankets, was found in Karmell's cell.

Reports at the federal building today were that Bolton, whose testimony was among the most damaging against the eight Barker-Karpis gangsters and aids on trial for the \$200,000 "snatching" of Edward G. Bremer, feared that the escape attempt of Karmell might make it just as easy for someone to get in as for Karmell to get out.

Bolton has been under close guard during the trial, in the fear that an attempt to kill him might be made by fugitive members of the Barker-Karpis gang as a "payoff" for his turning state's evidence.

7-576-A



Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. T.	
Mr. B.	
Chief Clerk	
Mr. C.	
Mr. G.	
Mr. E.	
Mr. H.	
Mr. L.	
Mr. M.	
Mr. N.	
Mr. O.	
Mr. P.	
Mr. Q.	
Mr. R.	
Mr. S.	
Mr. T.	
Mr. U.	
Mr. V.	
Mr. W.	
Mr. X.	
Mr. Y.	
Mr. Z.	

Defense counsel stated that Farmer, also under indictment as one of the actual kidnapers of the wealthy St. Louis banker, will join Byron Bolton, Chicago gangster, who earlier pleaded guilty to the conspiracy charge.

7-576-17

MAY 11 1951



Mr. Nathan .....  
 Mr. Tolson .....  
 Mr. Baughman .....  
 Chief Clerk .....  
 Mr. Clegg .....  
 Mr. Coffey .....  
 Mr. Edwards .....  
 Mr. Egan .....  
 Mr. Harbo .....  
 Mr. Keith .....  
 Mr. Lester .....  
 Mr. Quinn .....  
 Mr. Scheidt .....  
 Mr. Schilder .....  
 Mr. Smith .....  
 Mr. Tamm .....  
 Mr. Tracy .....  
 Miss Gandy .....

## BREMER KIDNAP HIDEOUT KEEPER TO PLEAD GUILTY

### Mercy of Court Sought by Alderton.

St. Paul, Minn., May 11.—[Special.]—Harold Alderton, occupant of the Bensenville, Ill., house where Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul kidnap victim, was kept prisoner for 21 days, will join Elmer Farmer, Bensenville tavern keeper who arranged for the hideout, in pleading guilty to conspiracy charges at the close of the defense testimony in the Bremer trial in federal court here, it was indicated today.

By throwing themselves on the mercy of the court instead of sending their cases to the jury with those of six other defendants, Farmer's and Alderton's prospective pleas indicated an end to the four weeks' old trial by Wednesday or Thursday.

Alderton testified before the grand jury which indicted 22 persons for the

\$200,000 kidnaping, as did Farmer and James Wilson, chauffeur for Dr. Joseph Moran, alleged chief of the ransom money changers.

Alderton will base his plea for a light sentence upon the claim he did not know the identity of the captive preceding his arrival at the farm house. Fear, it is said he will contend, kept him from revealing anything afterward.

Alderton's decision, it was said, came gradually as he saw other defendants take the stand to have their stories

beaten down under cross-examination by the government.

Byron Bolton was the first to plead guilty. He entered his plea at the outset of the trial and subsequently testified against the other defendants.

Proceedings as the fourth week of the trial closed yesterday were marked by the parade of three defendants to the witness stand, William Vidler, Philip Delaney and John J. "Boss" McLaughlin, all accused of having changed ransom bills. They all admitted exchange of money in operations traced by federal agents, but denied knowing that the money involved was part of the Bremer ransom.

When court opens Monday McLaughlin will again resume the stand.

CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE

7-576-A

MAY 12 1935

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Scheidt	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Smith	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

## JAIL GIVES GROOM BACK TO A BRIDE

Mr. and Mrs. Bruno Austin, four months married, started their honeymoon yesterday, a little later than most couples, but it really was Uncle Sam's fault.



BRUNO AUSTIN.

For Bruno was just leaving the Russian Holy Trinity Cathedral last January 20,

his bride on his arm, when detectives arrested him.

Turned over to federal agents, Bruno was sent to St. Paul for trial with other defendants in the \$200,000 Edward G. Bremer kidnaping conspiracy. He was charged with being a member of the gang that imprisoned the St. Paul banker for twenty-two days and collected a record ransom.

Thus torn from the arms of his tearful bride, Bruno didn't have a chance even to take her to the honeymoon apartment at 6969 Oakdale av.

Yesterday, on the heels of his exoneration by government prosecutors, he was turned out of the Ramsey County jail in St. Paul.

His bride was waiting for him.

*File  
Reel*

CHICAGO HERALD & EXAMINER

7-576-A

MAY 12 1935

# Defense Ends Bremer Case One Confesses

## 2d Plea of Guilty Comes During Climax of Trial for Kidnaping.

By the Associated Press.

St. Paul, Minn., May 13.—A second plea of guilty today climaxed four weeks of testimony in the Edward G. Bremer kidnaping trial as the Federal Government and defense rested in the cases of seven other defendants charged with conspiracy.

Elmer Farmer, Bensenville, Ill., tavern keeper, accused of helping to arrange an Illinois hideout where the St. Paul banker was held 21 days during his \$200,000 abduction, entered a guilty plea. Sentence was deferred until the end of the trial, at which time Byron Bolton, reputed trigger man for the Barker-Karpis gang, also will be sentenced on his guilty plea.

Shortly after the defense rested, Federal Judge M. M. Joyce denied a motion for directed verdicts of acquittal for the seven defendants, including Arthur (Doc) Barker, Southwestern desperado named as one of the actual kidnapers. Final arguments will start tomorrow and likely will continue two days.

Harold Alderton, in whose house Bremer reputedly was kept, decided to let the jury determine his case after his attorney, Eugene Mathews, had indicated earlier he might plead guilty.

Last defendant to take the stand was John J. (Boss) McLaughlin, Chicago politician charged with having participated in the exchange of a portion of the ransom. He admitted handling money, but denied he knew or suspected it was Bremer ransom. He called Government testimony "deliberate lies."

Those whose cases are expected to be given to the jury after closing arguments are Barker, McLaughlin, Philip Delaney, William Vidler, all of Chicago; Oliver Berg, a Joliet, Ill., convict, all accused as "money changers;" James J. Wilson, one time employe of fugitive Dr. Joseph Moran, Chicago physician; and Alderton.

All the defendants, except Alderton, Farmer and Barker, testified.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Scheidt	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Smith	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

Wash. Herald 7-576-A  
May 13, 1935

Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Baughman	
Chief Clerk	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Edwards	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Keith	
Mr. Lester	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Scheidt	
Mr. Schilder	
Mr. Smith	
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

ST. PAUL--ASSISTANT U.S. DISTRICT ATTORNEY GEORGE HEISSEY COMPLETED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S FINAL ARGUMENT AGAINST SEVEN DEFENDANTS IN THE EDWARD G. BREMER KIDNAPING TRIAL LATE TODAY.

COUNSEL FOR ARTHUR (DOC) BARKER, IMMEDIATELY OPENED SUMMATION.

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ES

- Mr. Nathan ☒
- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Baughman
- Chief Clerk
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Edwards
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Keith
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Schildt
- Mr. Schlichter
- Mr. Smith
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

PAUL-ELDER FARMER, ON TRIAL WITH SEVEN OTHERS IN THE EDWARD  
 BREMER KIDNAPING CASE, PLEADED GUILTY TODAY.  
 HE CHANGED HIS PLEA AFTER FOUR WEEKS OF TESTIMONY DURING WHICH THE  
 GOVERNMENT SOUGHT TO SHOW THAT HE AND HAROLD ALBERTSON WERE KEEPERS OF  
 A HIDEOUT AT BENSINGTON, ILL., WHERE THE CELEBRITY ST. PAUL BANKER WAS  
 HELD CAPTIVE PERIODIC PAYMENT OF \$200,000 RANSOM.

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ΣΣ

St. Paul Daily News

May 13, 1935

## Bremer Case Cash Changer Charges Lies

Says He Didn't Mention  
That Money Was From  
Hamm Ransom And  
Defends Aids.

Shouting angry denials to statements the prosecution charges he made to federal agents, John J. (Boss) McLaughlin, Chicago, returned to the witness stand in United States district court today at the trial of eight persons charged with conspiracy in the Edward G. Bremer kidnaping case to refute that he knew he was exchanging ransom money.

"Did you mention that some of the money was Hamm money?" McLaughlin was asked by his attorney, Robert Rensch.

"That is a deliberate lie," the witness shouted. He continued to raise his voice in denying a state-

ment in which he allegedly said he asked gangsters if the money he was to exchange was Bremer ransom money.

The witness gave support to testimony of two other alleged money changers, Philip Delaney and William Vidler, that they did not know they were exchanging "hot" money. "I told him (Agent R. D. Brown) that Delaney and Vidler should be released," McLaughlin asserted.

McLaughlin was on the stand as the trial entered its fifth week today. He was questioned by Robert Rensch, his attorney.

"How many times did you get money from Dr. Moran?"

"Five times, three times \$10,000 each and \$15,000 two times. I think I am not sure whether it was either \$80,000 or \$55,000 all told. I cashed all but \$3,000."

"What became of the \$3,000 you did not cash?"

"Vidler was to have cashed it the day he was arrested."

"Did you ever get any money from Dr. Moran other than in the hotel?"

"The second day I brought the money Dr. Moran did not have another package so I told him to meet me at Railroad st. and Northwestern highway at 8 p. m. that night and he gave me a package there."

Asked if he knew any members of the Karpis-Barker gang, McLaughlin testified the only time he ever saw any of them before this trial was in Dr. Moran's room where he saw Oliver Berg.

"When were you arrested?"  
"April 28, 1934, at 10:45 a. m. at my own home."

Sat On Chair All Night.

"How long were you at your home the day you were arrested?"

A government objection was entered to the question and after a 20-minute huddle between Mr. Rensch, Judge M. M. Joyce and George Heisey, assistant United States district attorney, the witness was allowed to answer the question.

"I remained at home from 10:45 a. m. until 6 p. m."

"Was any money taken from you by the agents?"

"Not at home."

"Were you questioned while at home?"

"No."

### Sawyer Arraignment Here Set For June 1

Harry Sawyer, St. Paul's former underworld king, under federal indictments charging kidnaping and conspiracy to kidnap Edward G. Bremer, will be arraigned in federal district court here June 1. This was decided today at a meeting between George Sullivan, United States district attorney, and Sawyer's three attorneys, Eugene D. O'Sullivan and C. J. Southard of Omaha and John DeCourcy, St. Paul.

Mr. Nathan	
Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Baughman	
Chief Clerk	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Edwards	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Keith	
Mr. Lester	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Schmidt	21
Mr. Weidner	
Mr. Smith	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

7-576-A



St. Paul Dispatch

May 13-1935

## JUSTICE AGENT FALSIFIED, SAYS 'CASH CHANGER'

Chicago Politician Asserts He  
Did Not Know Money Was  
Ransom.

### GOT FUNDS FROM MORAN

Defendant Shows Indignation  
as Counsel Reviews Gov-  
ernment Testimony.

"That is a deliberate lie!" shouted John J. (Boss) McLaughlin, Chicago politician, on the witness stand today in his own defense in the Bremer kidnaping trial.

He referred to previous testimony by Ralph D. Brown, Department of Justice agent, who questioned him in Chicago following his arrest in connection with the abduction.

Accused of supervising the exchange of about \$55,000 of the \$200,000 paid kidnapers for the release of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, McLaughlin is one of eight defendants on trial in Federal court for the kidnaping.

Resuming the stand today, the 66-year-old Chicago political boss vigorously denied most of the testimony previously given by Brown regarding a statement which he obtained from McLaughlin following the latter's arrest.

Questioned by his attorney, Robert V. Rensch, McLaughlin answered "no, no," "that is not so" and "I never said that" in reply to most of the queries. At one point, he leaned forward in the witness chair and said: "That's a dirty—!" Then he checked himself, and answered, "No."

Agent Brown testified you told him that you asked those men if this \$100,000 was Hamm ransom money," asked Rensch, "is that correct?"

The question referred to an alleged conversation between McLaughlin and two men he met in a Chicago hotel, with whom he discussed ransom money changing. The \$100,000 brought into the conversation was supposed to be the money paid kidnapers for the release of William Hamm Jr., St. Paul brewer who was the victim of a previous abduction.

"That is a deliberate lie!" McLaughlin shouted.

Agent Faulkner (Murray Faulkner, another Department of Justice man who questioned McLaughlin) said you told him you had read in the papers of the Bremer kidnaping," Rensch then said, "Is that correct?"

It was at this point McLaughlin leaned forward and cried, "That's a dirty . . ." before checking himself.

McLaughlin, testifying as the trial entered its fifth week, asserted that he never heard of or saw Arthur (Doc) Barker, Barker-Karpis gang leader, who is one of the defendants, until he entered the court room to stand trial.

McLaughlin, who probably is the last witness to testify before the defense rests, told how he received \$55,000 from Dr. Joseph P. Moran, Chicago physician who disappeared when the "blowoff" came in the Bremer abduction with the arrest

of the alleged money changers in April, 1934.

#### Never Knew Barker.

Questioned by Rensch, McLaughlin said he never knew or heard of Barker, Volney Davis, Harry Campbell, Fred Barker, Wynona Burdette or Alvin Karpis. Fred Barker, a member of the Barker-Karpis gang, is dead. Miss Burdette, girl friend of Campbell, is in a woman's prison and testified for the government in the present trial, while the others all are fugitives in the Bremer case.

"Was there anything ever said about this being ransom money when you received it from Dr. Moran?" Rensch asked.

"No, No!" the witness shouted.

"Did you ever suspect or believe it might have been ransom money?"

"I never gave it a thought; never heard of it," McLaughlin replied.

The defendant said he did not recall ever reading the newspapers about the Bremer abduction, although he read the Chicago newspapers, and further asserted he never knew there was such a man as Bremer until I was arrested."

When he first ascended the stand today, McLaughlin told how he received three packages of \$10,000 each and two of \$15,000—or possibly four 10-thousand-dollar packages and one 15-thousand-dollar bundle—from Dr. Moran in the Sherman hotel, Chicago, and at a point on Irving Park boulevard near the Irving hotel.

The witness said Moran told him he had received the money from "a friend who came in from La Salle, Ind., and wanted the money changed. McLaughlin added that the physician explained to him he had been selected to change the money because of his standing with the banks.

"I was curious about it, but I certainly did not think it was kidnap money," the political boss said. "That thought never entered my mind."

Questioned regarding Moran by George A. Heisey, assistant United States district attorney, McLaughlin staged one of the numerous explosions which marked his tenure of the stand.

#### "Not in Exchange Business."

"Did Moran know you were in the money changing business?" Heisey asked.

Rensch shouted an objection, but McLaughlin shouted louder.

"I demand to be allowed to answer that question!" he cried. "I was not, am not and never have been in the money changing business, and Moran had no knowledge to this effect."

Asked whether he knew Moran had served a penitentiary sentence, he answered:

"Yes, and I knew that Moran was a fine, educated, high class man and a graduate of Harvard university who served a sentence unjustly. He would not tell on another doctor who performed an illegal operation on a girl, and he served that term unjustly."

McLaughlin testified that he was

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ill in November and December, 1933, and January, February and March in 1934, and that he did not leave his home until about April 1 after his prolonged illness.

At the completion of defense testimony, Elmer Farmer, Bensenville, Ill., tavern keeper, will enter a plea of guilty. Thomas W. McMeekin, his attorney, previously has informed the court. Farmer is accused of assisting in making arrangements for the "hideout" where Bremer was in prison for 21 days.

The case is expected to go to the jury Thursday, after approximately two days of arguments by the prosecution and a half-dozen attorneys representing the various defendants.

Testimony at variance with that of government witnesses was the assertion of McLaughlin this morning that he "never heard of Slim Gibson." The prosecution charges that Gibson, slain gangster, was employed by the Barker-Karpis mob to act as guard of the ransom money as it was being distributed by Dr. Moran. Testimony was given previously that McLaughlin was seen in a room at the Irving hotel with Dr. Moran and Russell (Slim) Gibson.

"Did you ever turn over any money to any other person than Dr. Moran?" Rensch asked his client.

"No, sir," he said emphatically. McLaughlin testified that, for changing the \$35,000, he received \$1,200, of which he gave about \$275 to Philip Delaney and \$300 to William Vidler, two other defendants on trial as ransom money changers. While stating that they assisted him in passing the money, McLaughlin said they had no more knowledge of its source than he, and that they were innocent of any criminal intent.

Referring to \$85 of the Bremer ransom bills found in the possession of his son, John J. Jr., McLaughlin said:

"I certainly would not give my son, Jack, any money if I thought it was not all right."

He also remarked that Brown, in his previous testimony, had quoted him as calling his son "Jimmy."

"And no one ever has called him anything but 'Jack,'" he said.

Besides the trial, a development in the Bremer case today was a conference at which it was decided to arraign Harry Sawyer, St. Paul underworld figure named by the government as the "finger man" in the abduction, in Federal court here in about three weeks. Arrested after the trial of the other defendants started, Sawyer now is being held in Ramsey county jail.

#### Attorneys in Conference.

The conference was between Eugene O'Sullivan and C. J. Southard of Omaha and John DeCourcy of St. Paul, counsel for Sawyer, and George F. Sullivan, United States district attorney. All agreed on the approximate time of the arraignment, with the exact date to be set at the convenience of the presiding judge.

Another development today was the subpoenaing by the defense of Betty Baerwald, former maid in Sawyer's home, who testified in the current trial as a witness for the prosecution. In Sawyer's trial, she is expected to contradict testimony given in the present trial by Byron Bolton, confessed kidnap aid who pleaded guilty and turned state's evidence, that Sawyer was in Chicago following the kidnaping, with George Ziegler, alias Fred Goetz, one of the abductors. She is expected to say that during this period Sawyer was at his farm north of St. Paul.

## DENIES ALLEGED TRANSACTION IN CHICAGO HOTEL

The testimony of one of his fellow defendants was branded as untrue today by John J. (Boss) McLaughlin, Chicago politician on trial with seven others in Federal court here for the 200,000 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer.

The testimony in question was given by James Wilson, associate of Dr. Joseph Patrick Moran, Chicago physician who is a fugitive in the case. Wilson had testified that he saw McLaughlin, Oliver Berg, another defendant in the case, and Russell (Slim) Gibson, slain gangster, counting some money spread over a bed in the Irving hotel in Chicago, where Moran maintained rooms.

McLaughlin, accused of superintending the "passing" of \$35,000 of the Bremer ransom, was questioned about this testimony by George A. Halsey, assistant United States district attorney.

"If Wilson testified to anything like that," McLaughlin stated in reply, "he was not telling the truth."



MAG. CIV. 11

# EDNA MURRAY BRUISED IN CRASH ON WAY TO CELL

Jefferson City, Mo., May 13.—(AP)—Mrs. Edna (Kissing Bandit) Murray, triple-escape queen of the Missouri state penitentiary, was returned here today after narrowly escaping serious injury while being brought back from St. Paul.

Mrs. Murray's whose "in again, out again" career began here in 1925 when she began a 25-year sentence from Kansas City for first degree robbery, and Deputy Sheriff Robert Scholten, who was returning her, suffered bruises Sunday when their automobile collided with another car near Toledo, Iowa.

She was turned over to Missouri authorities Saturday, after having been questioned in connection with the Bremer kidnaping case.

The widow of "Diamond Joe" Sullivan, who was electrocuted in the Arkansas penitentiary, she first escaped in May, 1927, and was gone four years. Later she got away again, but was re-captured here the next day.

She escaped December 13, 1932, with Irene McCann, slayer of a Carthage jailer, and was captured near Pittsburgh, Kan., last February. Mrs. McCann voluntarily surrendered about a year ago.

Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Clegg	
Chief Clerk	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Edwards	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Jones	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Schilder	
Mr. Smith	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

7-576 - H

# BOSS M'LAUGHLIN ON STAND IN OWN BREMER DEFENSE

## Taking of Testimony at Trial Completed.

St. Paul, May 13.—(AP)—Completion of defense testimony for seven persons charged with conspiracy to kidnap Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, and a plea of guilty by another brought the federal court kidnap trial to the final argument stage late today.

Elmer Farmer, Bensenville, Ill., tavernkeeper, charged with helping to arrange the house in which Bremer was held 21 days, pleaded guilty after other defendants had rested. Byron Bolton, Chicago, took similar action a month ago when the trial began. Harold Alderton, in whose house Bremer was kept, decided to let the jury decide his case after his attorney, Eugene Mathews, had indicated earlier he also might plead guilty.

### McLaughlin Takes Stand.

Last defendant to testify was John J. [Boss] McLaughlin, Chicago politician, charged with having participated in the exchange of a portion of the \$200,000 ransom. He admitted handling money, but denied he knew or suspected it was Bremer ransom. He called contradictory government testimony "deliberate lies."

Those whose cases are expected to be given to the jury after closing arguments are Arthur [Doc] Barker, named as an actual kidnaper; McLaughlin, Philip Delaney, William Vidler, all of Chicago; Oliver Berg, a Joliet, Ill., convict, all accused as "money changers"; James J. Wilson, one time employé of Fugitive Dr. Joseph Moran, Chicago physician, and Alderton.

Final arguments, which will begin

tomorrow, are expected to be completed, at the latest, by Thursday.

### Most of Them Testify.

All the defendants except Alderton, Farmer, and Barker, testified during the trial.

Federal Judge M. M. Joyce deferred sentence on Farmer. He was withdrawn from the courtroom and remanded to the Ramsey county jail.

The prosecution summoned three witnesses in rebuttal and then rested. On the stand in rebuttal were William R. Holmes, guard at the Joliet, Ill., prison; Ralph Brown, and John Madala, department of justice agents.

Immediately after Farmer's plea of guilty, Thomas W. McMeekin began arguing a motion for dismissal of the charge against Philip Delaney, Chicago, an alleged "money changer."

No testimony was offered in Barker's defense. The case of James J. Wilson, former Northwestern university student, was rested after a short recess. Final witnesses were Father John Deere, Prior Lake Catholic priest who received some of the ransom money, and Betty Baerwald, one-time maid in the home of Harry Sawyer, alleged "fingerman," who is to be arraigned in about three weeks.

The priest said he could not identify Barker as one of the men who handed him ransom notes, and Miss Baerwald testified that in January, 1934, about the time of the kidnaping, Sawyer was confined to his home.

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Chief Clerk .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Edwards .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Keith .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Sullivan .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE

MAY 14 1935

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Chief Clerk  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Keith  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Scheidt  
Mr. Schilder  
Mr. Smith  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Baughman  
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Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Keith  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Schilder  
Mr. Smith  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

PLAINTY  
AFIDNAPING BREMER  
DEFENSE RESTS

ST. PAUL, May 13.—(AP)—Elmer Farmer, Bensenville, Ill., tavern keeper, today pleaded guilty to conspiracy in the \$200,000 Edward G. Bremer kidnaping. He was the second to plead guilty.

The defense for seven other defendants, including Arthur ("Doc") Barker of Chicago, had rested a few minutes before.

The prosecution summoned three witnesses in rebuttal and then rested its case. Final arguments were to begin tomorrow.

CHICAGO HERALD & EXAMINER

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NEW YORK AMERICAN

## Bremer Suspect Makes Guilty Plea

ST. PAUL, Minn., May 13 (AP). — A second plea of guilty today climaxed four weeks of testimony in the Edward G. Bremer kidnaping trial as the Federal Government and defense rested in the cases of seven other defendants charged with conspiracy.

Elmer Farmer, Bensenville (Ill.) tavern keeper, accused of helping to arrange an Illinois hideout where the St. Paul banker was held twenty-one days during his \$200,000 abduction, entered a guilty plea. Final arguments will start tomorrow.

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Chief Clerk .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Edwards .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Keith .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Schilder .....  
Mr. Smith .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

7-576-A



## 2d Guilty Plea Entered In Bremer Kidnap Trial

U. S. and Defense Rest in Cases  
of 7 Other Suspects

ST. PAUL, Minn., May 13 (AP).—A second plea of guilty today climaxed four weeks of testimony in the Edward G. Bremer kidnaping trial as the Federal government and defense rested in the cases of seven other defendants charged with conspiracy.

Elmer Farmer, Bensenville, Ill., tavern keeper, accused of helping to arrange an Illinois hideout where the St. Paul banker was held twenty-one days during his \$200,000 abduction, entered a guilty plea. Sentence was deferred until the end of the trial at which time Byron Bolton, reputed trigger man for the Barker-Karpis gang, also will be sentenced on his guilty plea.

Mr. Nathan ✓  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Baughman  
Chief Clerk  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Keith  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Schilder  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Mumford  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Pennington

7-576-A

# Asks Prison For Gangmen In Kidnaping

Says Barker Should Be Sent To Cell, Fears More Crimes If He Can Roam Streets.

Conviction of Arthur (Doc) Barker and six associates for participating in the "crime of the century"—the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer—was demanded in federal district court today by George A. Halsey, assistant United States district attorney, as trial of the seven defendants drew to a close.

In a courtroom packed to capacity, Mr. Halsey opened his final argument to the jury.

One by one he linked each of the defendants in the conspiracy to kidnap the St. Paul banker. He gave a vivid picture of the snatching and of the 22 days of torture and suspense Mr. Bremer spent in the Bensenville, Ill. hideout as he waited for his father to pay the \$200,000 ransom demanded.

## Tells Of Crime's Horrors.

Tears came into the prosecutor's eyes as he recalled the ransom notes dispatched by Mr. Bremer to his family.

"Those ransom notes told his father, his wife, his child that he would come back 'stiff' unless the demands of the gangsters were met," Mr. Halsey said.

Mrs. Bremer was in the courtroom as the government leveled its final blast at Doc Barker and his cohorts.

While Mr. Halsey looked at the jury, Barker's eyes flashed and he watched the prosecutor. The government prosecutor turned toward the gangster on one occasion meeting the stare of the co-leader of the Karpis-Barker gang.

## Stresses Bolton Testimony.

"Are we going to permit a man like Doc Barker to roam the streets and commit another kidnaping?" Mr. Halsey demanded. "Who will be responsible if Doc Barker goes mad again and commits another kidnaping or murder? It has to stop now."

Mr. Halsey stressed the testimony of Byron Bolton, who already has pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges, and of Aaron Kohn, government fingerprint expert.

"I hold no brief for Byron Bolton," Mr. Halsey asserted, "but he must have a spark of manhood in his black heart. He is trying to amend the wrong he has done so he must be given some credit for that spark of manhood that remains."

"Testimony of Mr. Kohn was tossed by defense attorneys from one to one but they couldn't shake his testimony because he was telling the truth about Doc Barker's fingerprints being found on the oil can."

## Halsey Begins Plea.

George Halsey, assistant United States district attorney, opened his address to the jury at 10:10 a. m.

"In this case," Mr. Halsey said, "the government contends the original conspirators planned in advance to kidnap Mr. Bremer. They waited until the kidnaping furor died to try to enjoy the fruits of their crime."

"They had made plans for this even before the kidnaping took place. That is why we say the conspiracy did not end until after good money had been obtained for the stolen money."

"These kidnapers stole Mr. Bremer. They didn't release him from his torture when they freed him for \$200,000. He will remember those three weeks of torture forever. Somebody must pay for this and you know who it is."

In the midst of his argument, Mr. Halsey gave explanation of a conspirator. Conspirators, he said, are those who are linked to a kidnaping even though they do not know what other conspirators are doing. He named Fred and Arthur (Doc) Barker, Harry Campbell, George Goetz and Volney Davis as the men who concocted the plans for kidnaping Mr. Bremer.

## Calls Them Accessories.

"Next came Harold Alderton and Elmer Farmer," he continued. "They fitted into plans by furnishing the Bensenville hideout. They assumed full responsibility for the crime. Next we find the money changers that the original kidnapers had in mind and we have Moran, Wilson, Gibson and Berg."

"We do not claim they are the kidnapers but by co-operating with the original kidnapers and they so became conspirators and accept full responsibility for the crime."

"Next we have the group comprised of McLaughlin, Vidler and Delaney. They are the actual money changers."

"I'll take Doc Barker first. Even though he stands here alone as an original kidnaper he can still be convicted on the conspiracy charge. The evidence stands here undisputed."

Doc Barker put up no defense. "It was a terrible thing to call Father Deere for the defense. It was a shame to call a cleric on behalf of a kidnaper. Did he say anything on behalf of Barker. No. The evidence showed Volney Davis delivered the note."

## Urges Guilty Verdict.

The fact that Doc Barker was in St. Paul Jan. 16 and in Bensenville Jan. 17 indicates that he was one of the men who took Mr. Bremer to the hideout, Mr. Halsey said.

"I don't see how you can bring back any verdict but guilty against Doc Barker," he said.

Mr. Halsey continued outlining to the jury the part played, of the return of Mr. Bremer, how the can placed gasoline in their car at the half-way mark and of fingerprints of Doc Barker being found on the gasoline cans.

The government attorney told the jury that it must stop Doc Barker from roaming the streets again.

"Who will be responsible if Doc Barker goes mad again and commits a kidnaping or murder?" Mr. Halsey asked.

Fact that Doc Barker had his fingertips mutilated and his face lifted by Dr. Moran indicates a conscience of guilt, Mr. Halsey said.

"If I was Doc Barker I would be mad at Dr. Moran for giving me all that torture. I would do something to him—maybe he already

#### Guilt Pursued Barker.

"Doc Barker had such a conscience of guilt that it pursued him as late as November. Bolton tells us that when he saw Barker in November he had his nose bandaged to complete his face lifting.

"We find Doc Barker in St. Paul, Bensenville, Chicago, Toledo, Cleveland, Sandusky—in fact on the move all the time—chased by his guilty conscience.

"This conspiracy started to form in St. Paul in December, 1933. The gangsters needed a hideout so what did 'Shotgun' Goetz do. He went to Farmer first. For some reason Farmer said he hasn't a place. Who stood next to Farmer in Goetz's estimation? It was Alderton. What happens next? Fred Barker and Goetz then talk to Alderton. Karpis comes and with Alderton goes to the hideout to look it over and give it his O. K. Alderton knew these men; he knew their characters. Do you think this mob with \$200,000 at stake would take a chance on Farmer and Alderton unless they knew all about them and their past?"

Alderton knew that he was to receive \$1,000 for his share in the kidnapping, Mr. Heisey asserted. If he did not want to be a party to the plot he could have gone to Chicago and told the government where Mr. Bremer was being held.

#### Farmer Pleads Guilty.

"If he had done this we would have had all the men now."

Fact that Oliver Berg is serving a life term in Illinois should not be considered, Mr. Heisey told the jury. He recalled that Berg mentioned to John Madala, federal agent, that he (Berg) might be able to get a pardon if he was not convicted in the Bremer case.

Only seven of the 12 persons called as defendants when the trial began April 15 remained at the bar today. Elmer Farmer, Bensenville, Ill., tavern keeper, accused of aiding the Barker-Karpis gang in finding a hideout for their kidnap victim, pleaded guilty Monday as the defense rested its case.

Charges against Jess Doyle and Edna Murray were dismissed by the government last week. Byron Bolton pleaded guilty when the trial opened and Bruno Austin, indicted and brought to court but not placed on trial, was freed by the government.

McLaughlin was the last defense witness for the remaining seven defendants. He denied knowledge of the kind of money he was exchanging—he is charged with exchanging \$57,000 of the \$200,000 ransom paid for the release of Mr. Bremer.

#### The Jurors.

The jurors are: Hubert Frank, Caledonia, retired grocer; Mrs. Alice C. Hall, St. Paul dentist's wife; Homer Blanchard, Lake City, retired livery operator; Earl Bateman, Plainview, truckman; Harry Jones, Austin, apartment house owner; Robert Barkhuff, Austin, barber; William Scherf, Frontenac, painter; J. Maude Brown, St. Paul, seamstress; Mary McQuade, St. Paul, former business woman; Frank Beaty, Lake City, unemployed electrical worker; George Gutter, Racine, farmer; and Ben Buckminister, Lake City, retired road builder.

St. Paul Daily News

May 14, 1935

## Prosecutor Also Hits Stories Told By Three Others

Jimmy Wilson, one of the seven defendants in the Edward G. Bremer kidnap conspiracy case, lied on the witness stand, George A. Heisey, assistant United States district attorney, charged late today as he neared the end of his argument to a federal court jury which will decide the guilt or innocence of Arthur (Doc) Barker and his associates.

"I can not help feeling sorry for him but Wilson knew what it was about," Heisey declared. "Wilson should be found guilty."

The prosecutor charged that John J. (Boss) McLaughlin, Philip Delaney and William Vidler—he referred to them as Sunday school boys—told a story on the witness stand that even a 12-year-old boy or girl would not believe.

"They are hiding the truth. Delaney wants us to believe that he does not know the words 'hot' and 'mob' yet his own character witness said that some years ago Delaney carried alcohol. Still he wants us to believe he does not know the meaning of the two three-letter words."

### Claims Wilson Guilty.

Jimmy Wilson may be a victim of circumstances, Mr. Heisey said, yet if he is guilty of helping the gangsters at the hotel the jury must take that into consideration.

Wilson must have known something about the men with whom Moran was dealing, the prosecutor continued recalling that Wilson admitted driving the gangsters around.

"Jimmy would have been much better off if he had never taken the stand. He did not tell the truth the stand. He tells us about trips to Aurora in April. For the first time since his arrest he tells about those rabid treatments of Harry Campbell.

"He had to have some excuse for the trips to Aurora so he makes this story.

### Ran To Fred Barker.

"Jimmy Wilson knew these men; he knew the racket; he knew McLaughlin was in the racket, and when Dr. Moran was looking for money changer Wilson reminded him that McLaughlin was in the racket. That's how McLaughlin stepped into the case.

"When the blowoff came, what did Wilson do? He ran away because he was guilty. He ran to Toledo into the arms of his friend, Freddie Barker. Here is a boy who must be stopped right now. Jimmy Wilson has got to be saved and there is only one way to save him.

7-576-A

### KARPIS IN TOWN?

"Alvin Karpis is in town watching the removal of the prisoners" was the information telephoned today to the Dispatch by an unidentified informant who hung up the telephone immediately on giving the information.

Karpis is the No. 1 Public Enemy now being sought by the Federal government in connection with the Bremer kidnapping and said also to have been involved in many other crimes.

er, gang leader who is one of the defendants, he told the jurors they must bring in a verdict of guilty or "you will blast my faith in the jury system."

#### Defense Counsel Denounced.

Describing Barker's defense as "an unconscionable exhibition," he denounced defense counsel for "bringing a poor old priest here and trying to make a monkey of him."

Besides Barker, the defendants are John J. (Boss) McLaughlin, William Vidler and Philip Delaney, alleged ransom money changers; Oliver Berg, alleged ransom money guard; James Wilson, also involved in the ransom changing; and Harold Alderton, in whose home at Bensenville, Ill., Bremer allegedly was held captive.

Originally, there were ten defendants. One of them, Elmer Farmer, charged with conducting negotiations for the kidnap hideout, changed his plea Monday from not guilty to guilty and now is awaiting sentence. The charges against two of the others, Edna (Rabbits) Murray and Jess Doyle, were dismissed when the prosecution closed its case.

A prospective defendant, Byron Bolton, Barker-Karpis gang machinegunner, pleaded guilty before the trial opened.

Harry Sawyer, St. Paul underworld figure named by the government as the "finger man" who pointed out Bremer to his abductors, is in Ramsey county jail awaiting trial at a later date.

#### Language of Address.

In opening his address Heisey said:

"The kidnaping of Edward Bremer was not the crime of the century, but the crime of the ages. For every day of anguish and torture that Bremer went through, and for every day that his wife and daughter and father suffered, somebody ought to be made to suffer. And I think you know who it is!"

"We know a majority of crimes are committed for money. In this case, the original conspirators had it in mind at the start that they were committing the crime for money—\$200,000 worth of money."

"When you get back to your homes, pick up the Bible and turn to Deuteronomy, twenty-fourth chapter, seventh verse, and read it. The ancient Hebrews knew what to do with kidnapers. 'Whosoever shall steal his brother and make merchandise out of him and sell him, then that thief shall die.'"

"That is what the kidnapers did to Edward Bremer. He was human merchandise, and they stole him and sold him."

After spending considerable time on the general aspects of the case, Heisey outlined the government's theory of the crime and told of the various parts taken by the alleged participants.

Excerpts from his talk relating to the seven defendants are:

DOC BARKER—"He figured in this picture from the very first. The evidence stands uncontradicted and undisputed. His defense was the most unconscionable exhibition I have ever seen in a criminal case—calling in a preacher to defend him. (Rev. John Deere of Prior Lake, who received one of the ransom notes). Did he defend Doc Barker? No. They bring a poor old Catholic priest, but him on the stand and try to make a monkey out of him. What kind of a pretense is this?"

ALDERTON—"What did he do when he found Bremer was being held in his house? Nothing. All he had to do was drive to Chicago, give the government his information, and we would have had all these kidnapers in the court room long ago. But he was not interested in helping the government."

BERG—"Just an ordinary gunman. He had a gun and would have used it. He has been convicted of robbery with a gun and has been sentenced to life imprisonment. He said he thought the Bremer ransom money was bank robbery money. I say a man who will handle robbery money also will handle kidnap money."

He asserted that McLaughlin, Vidler and Delaney, the alleged money changers, were "equally responsible" for the crime when they joined the actual kidnapers. In the same category he placed Wilson, charged with assisting in the gang operations which followed the abduction.



St. Paul Dispatch

May 14, 1935

# BREMER RANSOM 'MONEY CHANGERS' RAPPED BY HEISEY

A stinging denunciation of the "money changers" in the \$200,000 ransom kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer was launched by George Heisey, assistant U. S. district attorney, as he resumed his final arguments to the jury this afternoon.

Heisey, who began his final arguments this morning when he bitterly attacked the defense of Arthur (Doc) Barker and Harold Alderton, concentrated his attack this afternoon on John J. (Boss) McLaughlin, William Vidler, Philip Delaney, Oliver Berg and James J. Wilson, the other remaining defendants.

Asserting that he was going to start on the "three Sunday school boys," Heisey bitterly denounced the activities of McLaughlin, Delaney and Vidler whom he charged with being "in the racket" long before the kidnaping of Bremer.

"McLaughlin, Vidler and Delaney were in that kind of a racket and had been in it for some time," Heisey told the jurors. "When Dr. Moran (Dr. Joseph P. Moran, fugitive) was looking around for a money changer, Jimmy Wilson reminded him probably, I say undoubtedly, that McLaughlin was in that kind of a racket, and that is when McLaughlin came into the picture."

Berg, Heisey contended, received warning from Russell (Slim) Gibson, Barker-Karpis mobster who was slain by Federal agents, as to the type of money he was asked to exchange.

"You are entitled to consider the fact," the jurors were informed by Heisey, "that Alvin Karpis and Freddy Barker found asylum in Berg's home for a period of seven or eight days. Willie Doney, who cared for these men, and Berg are alumni of that famous institution at Joliet (meaning the Illinois state prison)."

"Doney nursed them for several weeks prior to that time at the Irving hotel. It is safe to assume, in view of the fact that Freddy Barker and Karpis were at Berg's house, that they all had conversations with Berg."

"On the second or third day after Freddy Barker and Karpis were at Berg's home, Doc Barker, one of the original kidnapers, came there. You have Berg in actual contact with three of the original kidnapers. A little later Doc Barker with a suitcase full of money—\$30,000 worth of money—comes to Berg's house and Berg sees it there. Despite all of this warning, he would like to have you loath to believe he would not go into this sort of thing. Berg went ahead. He cooperated. He acted as guard of this money at the Irving hotel. He was there for a solid week except at night time."

## MAKE TORTURER SUFFER, IS PLEA OF PROSECUTOR

Heisey Quotes Bible Edict of Death as He Demands Recompense for Victim.

## CITES FAMILY'S ANGUISH

Summary of Case Points Out Necessity of Circumstantial Evidence.

The kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, was characterized today as "the crime of the ages" by George A. Heisey, assistant United States district attorney, as he made his closing address in the trial of seven defendants charged with conspiracy in the crime.

Outlining the steps taken by the conspirators before, during and after the abduction, which took place January 17, 1934, Heisey demanded that somebody be made to suffer for "every day of torture and anguish that Edward Bremer went through."

Prior to the kidnaping, he asserted, St. Paul was the gathering place for "the most vicious and desperate outlaws in the history of the country."

In the case of Arthur (Doc) Barker...

- Mr. Nathan .....
- Mr. Tolson .....
- Mr. Baughman .....
- Chief Clerk .....
- Mr. Clegg .....
- Mr. Coffey .....
- Mr. Edwards .....
- Mr. Egan .....
- Mr. Harbo .....
- Mr. Keith .....
- Mr. Lester .....
- Mr. Quinn .....
- Mr. Schilder .....
- Mr. Smith .....
- Mr. Tamm .....
- Mr. Tracy .....
- Miss Gandy .....

7-576-17



# **Bremer Kidnap Case May Reach Jury Today**

St. Paul, May 15 (AP).—Picturing their clients as men innocently involved, defense attorneys today made their last stand against Government efforts to convict seven persons charged with conspiracy in the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker.

The month-old trial was expected to reach the jury tomorrow, with each defendant facing a possible sentence of one hour to life imprisonment.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schmidt	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Smith	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

WASH. POST

7-576-A

MAY 16 1935

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*SS*

### Bremer Jury Out

ST. PAUL—The case of Arthur (Doc) Barker and six others accused of the Edward G. Bremer kidnaping was given to a Federal Court jury of nine men and three women late today.

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Baughman  
Chief Clerk  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Keith  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

7-576-A

APR 11 1935

APR 10 1935

45



Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Chief Clerk .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Ladd .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Rosen .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Mr. Carson .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Hendon .....  
Mr. Jones .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Nease .....  
Miss Gandy .....  
.....  
.....

Σ 3

7-576-17

*Am*

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. F. S. Ho	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schmidt	ES
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Smith	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

**TRIAL OF 7 IN  
BREMER KIDNAP  
PLOT NEAR END**

St. Paul, Minn., May 15.—[Special.]  
—The long trial of seven defendants in the Edward G. Bremer kidnaping case drew to a close today in federal court here. Attorneys for each of the defendants made their final pleas.  
Hopes that the case would be placed in the hands of the jury tonight faded as each of the lawyers took the full hour allotted in desperate oratorical efforts to save their clients from the maximum penalty of life imprisonment. The defense pleas were scheduled to be followed by the final rebuttal for the government by George F. Sullivan, United States district attorney.  
At the conclusion of all arguments the charge to the jury will be delivered by Judge M. M. Joyce. This will take place tomorrow morning.  
Then the fate of the seven men who have sat in court for five weeks as a parade of witnesses testified to their guilt in plotting the \$200,000 abduction will be in the hands of the nine men and three women jurors.

7-576-A

CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE

MAY 16 1935

Mr. Ne...  
 Mr. Tol...  
 Mr. Baughman...  
 Chief Clerk...  
 Mr. Clegg...  
 Mr. Coffey...  
 Mr. Edwards...  
 Mr. Egan...  
 Mr. Harbo...  
 Mr. Keith...  
 Mr. Lester...  
 Mr. Quinn...  
 Mr. Schilder...  
 Mr. Schilder...  
 Mr. Smith...  
 Mr. Tamm...  
 Mr. Tracy...  
 Miss Gandy...

*Handwritten signature*

# DENY FREEDOM TOM'LAUGHLIN

ST. PAUL, May 16.—(P)—Motions to dismiss charges against John J. ("Boss") McLaughlin, William Vidler and Philip Delaney, reputed "money changers," were denied by Judge M. M. Joyce as final arguments in the Bremer kidnap case neared an end today.

Robert V. Rensch, speaking on behalf of the trio, contended that George Halsey, assistant United States district attorney, made a judicial admission of innocence of the three when in his arguments he said, according to Mr. Rensch:

"The government at no time charged they were connected with the kidnaping or in any way linked with the interstate transportation of Edward G. Bremer."

The three are alleged to have participated in exchange of a portion of the \$200,000 Edward G. Bremer ransom.

7-576-47

THE CHICAGO AMERICAN

MAY 16 1935

Mr. Norton  
Mr. Tuley  
Mr. Baughman  
Chief Clerk  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Keady  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Scheidt  
Mr. Schneider  
Mr. Smith  
Mr. Tamm

ALVIN KARPIS, WA,  
FUGITIVE, I. O. 1218, et al;  
Edward George Bremer, VICTIM;  
KIDNAPING.

St. Paul—Arthur (Doc) Barker himself received a major share of the first batch of Bremer ransom bills exchanged for other money, testimony in the trial of himself and nine others showed today.

With this testimony the federal government sought to link Barker, accused as one of the actual kidnapers of Edward G. Bremer, with the ransom negotiations.

At this morning re-

7-576-A *John*  
*John*



ASK PAPER MILL TO  
CLOSE GATES FOR

Formerly the Borg store.  
Kin and Lindo company store here.  
D. arrived here to manage the sal-  
N. A. McLaughlin of Valley City, N.  
here this week.  
andria. She is expected to return  
Mrs. Mabel Allen is visiting in Al-  
Rapid.  
business trip to Albin and Grand  
by on a

After testifying this morning  
garding an amazing story of the  
side working of the gang, as obtain-  
ed from Oliver Berg, one of those  
on trial, Federal Agent John Madala  
la resumed the witness stand this  
afternoon.

"Berg told me that after the first  
ransom money was passed," Madala  
testified, "Doc Barker and Volney  
Davis appeared at their hideout in  
the Irving hotel (Chicago)."

"Doc Barker asked if there had  
been any trouble changing the  
money. Upon receiving a negative  
answer, Barker said, 'good there's  
plenty more.'"

"Doc Barker took most of the ex-  
changed money. The remainder was  
dealt out to those who helped."

John J. (Boss) McLaughlin, accus-  
ed as the chief money changer,  
brought the money to the hotel each  
day, Madala quoted Berg as saying.  
On the second day he exchanged  
\$9,250. Of this Berg received \$3000.  
Dr. Joseph Moran received \$225 and  
other received similar amounts.

"Did McLaughlin take any money  
with him?" Madala was asked.

"Yes, Slim (identification uncer-  
tain) brought in a package from  
another room. This was hot money.  
He gave it to McLaughlin after get-  
ting the good money," Madala re-  
plied quoting Berg.

An amazing inside story of the  
Barker-Karpis gang's wary move-  
ments to dispose of Bremer ransom  
money, of their painful efforts to  
evade capture and of suspicion and  
with the mob was unfolded by the  
jealousy that constantly existed  
federal government.

John Madala, an agent of the  
Chicago department of justice of-  
fice, told the story of the gang's  
movements in Chicago last year  
after Bremer was seized here and  
released upon payment of \$200,000  
ransom. Madala said he obtained  
the information from Oliver Berg,  
one of the defendants, following his  
arrest a year ago.

Berg's face was flushed a deep red  
as Madala testified. He muttered to  
himself. When Madala reached a  
particularly incriminating point  
Berg rose to his chair and called  
out "you're a liar!"

A moment later, when Berg heard  
Madala testify that Berg had ad-  
mitted he knew what money he  
was handling was from the Bremer  
ransom, he let out a long drawn  
"Oooooohhhh."

Madala's testimony linked virtual-  
ly every member of the once-pow-  
erful Barker-Karpis mob. It tied  
the gang in with Charles (Pretty  
Boy) Floyd, notorious Oklahoma  
outlaw recently slain by federal op-  
eratives, and involved Fred Barker,  
slain in Florida several months ago  
with his mother, and Alvin Karpis.

In April last year, Madala said  
quoting Berg, Dr. Joseph Moran  
arranged for two gangsters to stay  
at Berg's home in Chicago while  
they recovered from hand injuries  
"suffered in explosion of a still."  
Dr. Moran himself is under a Bre-  
mer indictment but has not been  
Berg identified the two men from  
pictures as Fred Barker and Kar-  
pis, Madala said. At one time Bark-  
er was in such pain that he plead-  
ed with Berg to shoot him.

Berg, Madala said, learned later  
that the men had undergone oper-  
ations to mutilate their hands so  
that fingerprints would be impos-  
sible. The operation had been per-  
formed at a Chicago hotel.

The BRAINERD DISPATCH  
Brainerd, Minn.,  
(Date Unknown)

Re: ALVIN KARPIS, WA,  
FUGITIVE, I. O. 1218, et al;  
Edward George Bremer, VICTIM;  
KIDNAPING.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Scheidt	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Smith	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....

7-576-A *Yoke*  
*Ph*

# Defense Fails to Break Feds' Story 'Naping

## Heated Attack on Testimony of Federal Agents in Money changing Phase is Launched

St. Paul—Defense attorneys in the trial of Arthur (Doc) Barker and nine others opened a heated attack today on government agents who testified concerning incrimination admission allegedly made by John J. (Boss) McLaughlin, accused money changer.

Robert Rensch, of the defense council, directed a barrage of questions at Ralph D. Brown, special agent of the department of justice as he resumed the witness stand for cross examination.

Brown's testimony that McLaughlin had guilty knowledge of the source of thousands of dollars in ransom bills which he exchanged for other money was unshaken under severe questioning by Rensch and others.

Rensch attempted to show that statements Brown had made in quoting a conversation with McLaughlin were from Brown's own mind, not from McLaughlin.

Thomas McMeekin, of the defense then began cross examination.

"You did not know that McLaughlin would refuse to make a statement?" he asked.

"Not at that time," Brown replied. "He was tired and I did not think he would sign a statement that day."

"You asked him if he would sign a statement?"

"I did. He said he would rather not."

George Helsy, assistant to George H. Sullivan, U. S. district attorney, objected that the witness was being subjected to "the same questions, one after another."

Rensch jumped to his feet and shouted that "there is no duplication. It is our purpose to impeach this witness."

The notebook in which Brown had made numerous memorandums while conversing with McLaughlin was admitted in evidence.

As cross examination of Brown concluded, he appeared wearied. He was on the stand during the entire morning session and most of Friday.

A thrill matching sequel to the story of John Dillinger's "new face"—carved by a plastic surgeon in a ramshackle hideaway—was promised by the government as the climax of its evidence in the Edward G. Bremer kidnaping trial.

Federal attorneys, after 14 days of arraying the case against Arthur (Doc) Barker and his nine co-defendants, expected to complete their evidence this week.

At least five of the defendants will testify in their own behalf, de-

The BRAINERD DISPATCH  
Brainerd, Minn.,  
(Date Unknown)

Re: ALVIN KARPIS, WA,  
FUGITIVE, I. O. 1218, et al;  
Edward George Bremer, VICTIM;  
KIDNAPING.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schriber	.....
Mr. Schliker	.....
Mr. Smith	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....

7-576-A

*John  
Rensch*

"He was tired and I did not think he would sign a statement that day."

"You asked him if he would sign a statement?"

"I did. He said he would rather not."

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Federal attorneys, after 14 days of arraying the case against Arthur (Doc) Barker and his nine co-defendants, expected to complete their evidence this week.

At least five of the defendants will testify in their own behalf, denying complicity in the \$200,000 abduction of Bremer. The wealthy banker, seized on Jan. 17, 1934, was held prisoner for 21 days in a house at Bensenville, Ill.

The evidence of plastic surgery and mutilated fingertips, designed to throw off pursuit, will be placed before the jury in an effort to link James J. Wilson, modest appearing youth, with the crime.

Wilson worked in the office of Dr. Joseph P. Moran in Chicago. The doctor, who is a fugitive, allegedly altered the faces and finger tips of several of the gang.

Disclosure of the face liftings will come from several purported confessions made to department of justice agents, prosecutors said. Fifteen more government witnesses remain for the jurors.

7-576-A

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Smith	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

*[Handwritten signature]*

**Bremer Kidnap Case  
May Reach Jury Today**

St. Paul, May 15 (AP).—Picturing their clients as men innocently involved, defense attorneys today made their last stand against Government efforts to convict seven persons charged with conspiracy in the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker.

The month-old trial was expected to reach the jury tomorrow, with each defendant facing a possible sentence of one hour to life imprisonment.

*Wash. Post  
5-16-35*

*7-576-17*

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all*



The arguments were made by Eugene Matthews, appointed by the court to defend Alderton and Berg, and by Thomas Newman, appointed to defend Wilson.

In their pleas, both attorneys rapped methods used by the Department of Justice in the case. Matthews asserted that "it is very strange that, whenever there has been a gap in the government's case, a Department of Justice agent has taken the stand and filled it in with his own testimony."

Newman said he was "astounded to learn of the methods used by the agents, who did not put their interviews with defendants into writing until some time afterward."

At the close of the morning session, it appeared unlikely that the case would go to the jury today, as previously had been anticipated. Final arguments remain to be made for three more defendants, after which the government will present its arguments in rebuttal.

The defendants for whom arguments are yet to be made are John J. (Boss) McLaughlin, William Vidler and Philip J. Delaney, alleged ransom money passers.

Final arguments were made Monday for Arthur (Doc) Barker, gang leader accused of the actual abduction, which took place January 17, 1934. Another defendant, Elmer Farmer, who admitted making arrangements for the kidnap hideout, pleaded guilty at the completion of testimony in the case and is awaiting sentence.

Alderton was described by Matthews as "the man who saved Edward Bremer's life."

Referring to a statement by the prosecution that the defendant should have notified the authorities while the banker was being held prisoner in his home, the attorney said:

"If Alderton had notified the police, it would have cost Bremer's life and his own. It would have been no less than suicide, and would have led to innumerable murders. The kidnapers had an arsenal in the house. They had four machine-guns and each one

## ALDERTON AIDED BREMER, JURY TOLD

Saved Victim's Life by Not  
Calling Police, Defense At-  
torney Says.

(Continued From Page 1.)

of them carried an automatic pistol.

"Played for a Sap."

"These gangsters knew that Alderton had been played for a sap by Farmer. They knew, too, how they could intimidate him, and they did. They put the fear of God into his heart. He was just as much a victim of the kidnaping as Mr. Bremer."

Speaking in behalf of Berg, Matthews said:

"He was the underdog in this case. The gangsters told him that, if he did not do as they said, he would be found in a ditch. And when you're found in a ditch in Chicago, it isn't the result of an automobile accident."

Referring to the fact that Berg is under a life sentence for robbery in Joliet penitentiary, the attorney asserted:

"So far as the law is concerned, he is civilly dead. He is a man of sorrows, 56 years old, with nothing to look forward to except the ultimate death that will come. And yet the government has had effrontery enough to send him up here and ask you to add to his time. Send him back to Joliet, there to live out his living death."

• Blames Dr. Moran.

Dr. Joseph Patrick Moran, Chicago physician who also served time in the Joliet prison, was blamed by Matthews for involving Berg in the case. Moran, now a fugitive, is accused by the government of taking part in the ransom

transactions and of performing operations to obliterate the fingerprints of several of the kidnapers.

"Berg and Moran met in the penitentiary and became friends," Matthews said. "Because Moran knew Berg and trusted him, he hired Berg to guard the ransom money. Berg did this because Moran asked him to, and never even knew it was ransom money."

Newman's argument for Wilson was based chiefly on the alleged fallibility of the government's method of taking statements from the defendants. Referring to the statement taken from Wilson by John L. Madala, Department of Justice agent, Newman said:

"A confession which has not been colored may be all right, but with Wilson's statement this was not the case. The method of taking it was entirely wrong. It was not put in writing at the time. Instead, several days elapsed and then it was reduced to narrative form. Madala seems to have a remarkable memory, but he is only human. And after all, we are entitled to know, word for word, what was really said."

Newman also blamed Wilson's connection with the case on Dr. Moran, who is the defendant's uncle, explaining that "Jimmy Wilson loved and revered Dr. Moran, wrong-doing." He also denied that Wilson ever was a fugitive, saying that when Moran fled from Chicago Wilson naturally followed the man he revered.

(Please Turn to Page 2, Col. 5.)

St. Paul Dispatch  
May 15, 1935

## Bremer Ransom Bills Destroyed, Counsel Charges

Charges that the Federal government "willfully and deliberately" destroyed Bremer ransom bills introduced in evidence, coupled with a bitter attack on the credibility of a Department of Justice agent, were made by Robert V. Rensch as he began final arguments on behalf of John J. (Boss) McLaughlin, former Chicago political chieftain.

Rensch, who formerly served for five years as assistant U. S. district attorney, roundly criticized the testimony of Ralph Brown, Federal

agent of Chicago, who testified concerning conversations he had with McLaughlin. Rensch began final arguments as court resumed this afternoon in the case of McLaughlin and six others on charges of conspiracy to kidnap Edward G. Bremer.

"The government has shown that less than 10 per cent of the amount of money, \$55,000, which McLaughlin exchanged, is kidnap money. Not a single dollar—not a single bill—that any of these men exchanged has been produced in court," Rensch argued.

"Can the government give us one good reason why the money was destroyed, so we can not examine it? That money was deliberately and willfully destroyed by the government."

Referring to innuendoes by government witnesses that McLaughlin, 68 years old, was involved in a mail robbery in Chicago, Rensch told the jury as he pointed to the aged defendant leaning back in his swivel chair:

"Take a look at Mr. McLaughlin. Does he look like a mail robber? Does he look like a kidnaper? It is entirely probable, if he is in trouble in Chicago, that the same \$57,000 he is interested in here is the basis of the charge that he stole money from the mails."

## SILENCE BARRED MANY MURDERS, ATTORNEY SAYS

Matthews, in Closing Argument, Pictures Consequence of Calling Cops to Hideout.

## CALLS BERG "UNDERDOG"

Newman, Defending James Wilson, Is Astounded at U. S. Agents' Methods.

Harold Alderton, in whose home at Bensenville, Ill., Edward G. Bremer was held prisoner following his kidnaping, was named today as "the man who saved Edward Bremer's life."

The characterization was made by defense counsel as the trial of Alderton and six other defendants charged with conspiracy in the abduction drew toward its close in Federal court.

Final arguments for three of the defendants marked the morning court session. Besides Alderton, those for whom the pleas were made are Oliver Berg, ransom money guard, and James Wilson, accused of helping the kidnapers to escape.

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Chief Clerk .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Edwards .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Ladd .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Rosen .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

7-576-F



St. Paul Daily News  
May 15, 1935

- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Clegg
- Chief Clerk
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

## Say Alderton 'Saved' Life By Actions

Had He Told On Gang,  
Bremer Would Have  
Been Slain, His Attor-  
ney Claims.

Stirring appeals for acquittal of Harold Alderton, Oliver Berg and James Wilson, three of the seven defendants in the Edward G. Bremer kidnap conspiracy case, were heard by a federal district court jury today.

Jurors are not expected to receive the case until late tonight or Thursday. Government attorneys will take some time for rebuttal argument and Judge M. M. Joyce may not choose to give his instructions to the jury until Thursday.

### Saved Bremer Life.

Alderton was characterized by his attorney as the man who "saved" Mr. Bremer's life; Berg as a man ruled by the superior mental ability of Dr. Joseph Moran, a fugitive in the case, and Wilson as a "free" man if the verdict in his case were to be given by Mr. Bremer, his father or Walter Magee.

"Harold Alderton, I maintain," Eugene Matthews, his attorney, said, "is the man who saved Edward G. Bremer's life. Had he done as George Halsey said (informed federal agents where Mr. Bremer was being held) he not only would have committed suicide, but caused the death of Mr. Bremer by these mobsters who were in Alderton's house."

### Moran Dominated Berg.

"When Moran told Berg to do something, Berg did it like a galley slave," Mr. Matthews asserted. "Why? Because Moran was 8 to 1 superior in mental ability."

"I know that if Adolf Bremer, Eddie Bremer and Walter Magee were on this jury, I would not hesitate a moment to trust the fate of Jimmy Wilson in their hands," Thomas Newman, Wilson's attorney, said opening his plea for acquittal of the former Northwestern university medical student.

### Alderton Called "Captive."

"Alderton is not a criminal," Mr. Matthews told the jury. "You are not dealing with a criminal but with a weak-minded, sick individual."

Alderton, Mr. Matthews continued, was as much a captive during the kidnap time as Mr. Bremer was.

"The mobsters talked of what had been done to any one who had doublecrossed them. What effect would that have on a healthy man leave alone a sick man like Harold Alderton. . . . Alderton was threatened. He was told what to do and to this day he is a victim of the three weeks Bremer went through. Goetz was found dead. Bolton pleaded guilty. You have a right to speculate why

(Continued On Page 7, Col 1.)

Goetz was killed and what effect this would have on Alderton.

### Makes Plea For Berg.

After pleading for an acquittal verdict for Alderton for half an hour, Mr. Matthews started to speak to the jury in behalf of his second client, Oliver Berg. Berg followed the gangsters to Toledo, Matthews said, because if he didn't he knew he would be killed.

Berg would have nothing to do with changing any part of the money, the attorney said, because he knew it was ransom money.

"Berg told the truth on the stand," he continued. "If you think that Berg told a single lie you can find him guilty, but I know he didn't."

### Cites Berg Mentality.

Doubt that Berg knew the Bremer kidnaping had been carried out was expressed by Mr. Matthews.

"The government says Berg read about the kidnaping. Why a man with Berg's mental ability reads nothing but funnypapers."

Berg was like putty in Dr Moran's hands, Matthews asserted.

Both Berg and Alderton are underdogs and should be acquitted, Matthews pleaded. Berg already is civilly dead since he has a life term at Joliet penitentiary facing him.

### Halsey Flays Mob.

For four hours Tuesday George Halsey, assistant United States district attorney, summed up the government's case to the jury. He called the case the "crime of a century." He flayed Doc Bar-

7-576-17

ker, one of the alleged actual kidnapers; John J. McLaughlin, the alleged money changer; Harold Alderton, at whose home in Bensenville Mr. Bremer was held for 22 days; Oliver Berg, the Joliet lifer, who is alleged to have acted as guard for the money.

Down the line he went, listing defendant after defendant as criminals who should be "checked now."

#### Pleads For Barker.

His stirring plea for conviction was followed by an hour-plea for acquittal of Doc Barker. John De Courcy opened the defense plea with a sarcastic summation of evidence presented to prove that Barker, once a co-leader of the Karpis-Barker gang, directed the kidnapping.

He contended that the government could not connect Barker with the crime through the hearsay testimony of Byron Bolton, "Bolton told the court that George Goetz told him of Barker's connection with the crime, but the defense could not cross-examine Bolton because it was hearsay testimony, and Goetz is dead. He belittled Aaron Kohn's testimony on the fing... prints found on the gasoline can and he pointed out the "14 points of difference" in the latent finger prints on the can and the ink print of Barker's right index finger.

# The Lyons Den

LEONARD LYONS

## BROADWAY MEDLEY

Star

**H**E WENT from his native Cincinnati nineteen years ago and sang his first song in Montana's capital. He tramped the lowly circuits with a traveling Hawaiian Village... Then he played the piano for Mae West, Nora Bayes and the Dolly Sisters.

His fame was localized to Broadway's smoke-screened cafes, when Hollywood beckoned. A publicity tie-up romance with Clara Bow placed his name on the country's front pages, and so his "Puttin' on the Ritz" was a hit in filmdom... Now he's America's greatest night-club attraction and receives Christmas cards from the Prince of Wales. Six months ago he went to Santa Barbara to see Clara Bow again. He was ushered into the living room, saw a redhead standing in the corner, and embraced her. "Clara," he elated, "you look marvelous!"... But it wasn't Clara Bow he held in his arms. Clara was standing behind a victrola stand... unrecognizable to the Harry Richman her bootstraps once had pulled to the heights...

### Song Writer

**H**E NEVER bothered with making the nation's laws but has written many of Tin Pan Alley's greatest hits. Some months ago he was assigned to write a song for a young dancer with whom he was in love. She was to be featured in a production number, and he vowed to make the song eloquent with his longing... and that she'd see, understand and acknowledge.

She did neither. That torch song became a best seller. It pushed her to stardom, to Hollywood—and away from him forever.

### Singer

**S**HE first was sprinkled with star-dust in a Brooklyn dancing school. At the school-recital she was given a singing assignment, because the instructor had no faith in her dancing abilities. A theatrical agent, sitting in the audience, heard her, and sent her to Irving Berlin. Since then Gracie Barrie has been featured in Broadway shows, was Abe Lyman's soloist, starred at the Casino de Paree, and already is signed for George White's forthcoming Scandals.

Hollywood is around the turn, and the revival of musical films makes Gracie a sure picture bet. But more than singing is necessary now. And so Miss Barrie again will return to the Dance... renewing her instruction in this art from which her singing fame was an accidental off-shoot.

Two years ago Eddie Cantor put Block and Sully on his program, and the rest is history... except...

Jesse Block had lost his vaudeville partner when she retired to marry. He sought another young lady—one who wouldn't be bothered with such trifles as matrimony. He found her—a Philadelphia miss named Eva Sully—and married her.

Two years ago, in Ohio, they were faced with salary-cuts, and three weeks' booking—\$2,250 that—nobody knew... How to get with Cantor—like Burns and Allen once had done, as a spring-board to fame...

Eddie was vacationing in Miami. Block and Sully cancelled their three weeks' booking—\$2,250 worth—and went to Miami. Cantor was at the racetrack, and so to the racetrack they went, parading in front of his box until he spied them. They started a conversation. "Say," Eddie popped. "I've got a great idea. So long as you kids are vacationing here—why don't you broadcast with me next Sunday? Waddya say? Will you do it? Waddya say?"

They had come 1,500 miles to

### Amateur

**D**OROTHY BURGESS came to Broadway from Chicago, seeking a Ziegfeld crownlet. She tried the shows and night clubs, but was rejected. Three months ago, in desperation, she applied at the Hollywood Restaurant and was hired—as a hat-check girl. That job, at least, offered steady employment...

Monday night the Hollywood sponsored an Amateur Show, to find new talent for the cafe. Dorothy quit her check-room job at midnight—chucked it all for renewed opportunity. She went on, sang two songs, and... and... Dorothy Burgess is back at the Hollywood now—checking hats.

### The Royal Family

**H**ES only twenty-six and a princeling of the theatre's most eminent family. The Drew and Barrymore traditions are his heritage—sufficient to gladden the souls of any drama aspirants. His last appearance was in Le Gallienne's "L'Aiglon"...

He's depressed and unconsolated now. "I'm the last of the line," Samuel Barrymore Colt laments, "and the whole family is sore at me—because I haven't got anything on the ball"...

### Ticket Broker

**"W**HEN you're lonesome and blue and don't know what to do—call up Broadway Sam, and I'll take care of you."... He's a happy-go-lucky flashy carnation strutter, a flamboyant figure on the Broadway Scene. Sam's philosophy is simple—and poetic: "You get beefsteak when you're hungry, you get champagne when you're dry; you get money when you need it... and you go to hell when you die."... His attire never is modest. "Sure I'm the best-dressed guy around here. I got the body—so why shouldn't I take advantage of it?"

Broadway Sam was born Sam Roth, on the lower East Side. When he was eight, he toted ice cakes to support his family. The stage was his first love, and his burning ambition always has been to face the footlights. Fifteen years ago he came to Broadway, and his ambition still is frustrated. Now he owns the Broadway Ticket Office... and helps the world see others in the spot where he'd give everything—including the fresh carnation he's been wearing every day for fifteen years—to be...

### Gangster

**T**HEY all come to Broadway for a synthetic outlet for their... their laughter... This... different, and...

awaiting his arrival. "I'll show them some day," was the message he sent, "what a real he-man looks like."

He's hunted now, and the chase is close. G-Men are scouring the Village on the tip that he is hiding out here. He-man Karpis finally has come to Broadway—and the rumor is that he's disguised... as swishy effeminate...

Mr. Nathan ✓  
Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. Baughman ✓  
Chief Clerk ✓  
Mr. Clegg ✓  
Mr. Coffey ✓  
Mr. Edwards ✓  
Mr. Egan ✓  
Mr. Harbo ✓  
Mr. Keith ✓  
Mr. Lester ✓  
Mr. Quinn ✓  
Mr. Schmidt ✓  
Mr. Schilder ✓  
Mr. Smith ✓  
Mr. Tamm ✓  
Mr. Tracy ✓  
Miss Gandy ✓

7-576-A

## U.S. DEMANDS CONVICTION OF BREMER GANG

ST. PAUL, May 14.—(UP)—Government demands for conviction of seven persons charged with conspiracy in the \$200,000 ransom kidnapping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, today climaxed month long trial.

Opening final arguments for the government, George A. Halsey, assistant United States district attorney, described evidence against Arthur ("Doc") Barker, named as one of the actual abductors, as "undisputed and uncontradicted." He then took up, one by one, cases of the other defendants. Halsey said:

"Doc Barker figures in this picture from the first. The evidence here stands uncontradicted and undisputed in the case of Barker. He has interposed no defense."

Harold Alderton, in whose Bensenville house Bremer was held, came next. Halsey pointed to Alderton's warning his relatives as proof that he knew the nature of the conspiracy.

The attorney attacked ignorance claims of those charged as money changers—Oliver Berg, Joliet, Ill. convict; John J. McLaughlin, William Vidler and Phillip Delaney.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schilder	ES.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

7-576-A

CHICAGO HERALD & EXAMINER

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Chief Clerk .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Edwards .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Keith .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Smith .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

# **U. S. OPENS PLEA FOR CONVICTIONS IN BREMER TRIAL**

**Expect the Jury to Get  
Case Tonight.**

St. Paul, Minn., May 14.—[Special.]  
—Branding the kidnapers of Edward  
B. Bremer as the perpetrators of the  
"crime of the century" George Halsey,  
assistant United States district attor-  
ney, today demanded conviction of  
Arthur [Doc] Barker and six others  
on trial here for plotting the crime.  
The argument started today after  
four weeks and one day spent in tak-  
ing testimony. It is expected to con-

clude into tomorrow with Judge M. M.  
Joyce handing the case to the jury,  
before tomorrow's session ends.  
At one point, in flaying Doc Barker,  
Halsey remarked, "What a conscious-  
ness of guilt this man Barker must  
have, to go through the tortures of  
fingerprint mutilation and face lift-  
ing. If I were Barker I would be go-  
mad at Dr. Joseph Moran for what  
he did to me that I would do some-  
thing about it—maybe Barker already  
has."

CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE

MAY 15 1935

7-576-A



## PLEAD 2 ON TRIAL KNEW NOTHING OF BREMER PLOT

St. Paul, Minn., May 15 (AP).—Final arguments in behalf of Harold Alderton, tavern keeper of Bensenville, Ill., and Oliver Berg, lifer in the Illinois state prison, were started by Eugene Matthews, counsel for both defendants, in the Bremer kidnap trial today.

The jurors were told Alderton, in whose home Edward G. Bremer was held prisoner 21 days, was without knowledge as to the intentions of the gang when he consented the use of his home.

After the 37-year-old bank president was taken there, Matthews told the jury, Alderton was in fear of his life and was forced into the kidnap plot through a chain of circumstances over which he had no control.

Berg at no time suspected or had knowledge that he was handling Bremer ransom money, the attorney said.

The prosecution completed arguments in the case of Arthur (Doc) Barker and the six other defendants late yesterday. The other defendants are John J. McLaughlin, William Vidler, Philip Delaney and James J. Wilson, all of Chicago, who are accused of aiding in disposing of the \$200,000 ransom.

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Chief Clerk .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Edwards .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Keith .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schildt .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Sakb .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

7-576-A CHICAGO DAILY TIMES  
MAY 15 1935



# Judge Joyce Asks Wilson To Be Direct

## U. S. Forces Witness To Admit He Knew That Money McLaughlin Had Was "Hot."

Evasive answers by James Wilson, one of eight persons on trial in federal district court for conspiracy in the Edward G. Bremer kidnapping, to questions by government attorneys brought a sharp reprimand from Judge M. M. Joyce today.

Twice the witness was cautioned about "going into a speech" in answering questions. He was told to answer the questions only.

Once George Heisey, assistant United States district attorney asked the witness if he had told John Madala, government agent, that the money he saw McLaughlin take was "hot" money.

### Forced To Answer Again.

The witness gave an evasive answer saying: "I didn't know, I gathered it was 'hot' from what I read in the newspaper."

Mr. Heisey repeated the question and the witness started to give a similar answer when Judge Joyce then interrupted to instruct the witness to answer the question. Wilson then answered, "Yes, I did."

Mrs. John J. McLaughlin, wife of one of the defendants, and John J. McLaughlin, Jr., a son, once arrested as a suspect in the case, were in the courtroom today and appeared deeply interested in the proceedings which will determine whether their husband and father will spend his final years in prison.

The statement which Wilson gave the government became a heated point of contention at the trial today with most of Mr. Heisey's questions referring to it.

### McLaughlin Doctor Testifies.

Dr. Henry J. Way, practicing in Chicago for 42 years at 4438 W. Madison st., was the first witness today. He was questioned by Robert Rensch, attorney for McLaughlin. The witness said he was the McLaughlin family doctor for 15 years and called on him in November, 1933 and found him suffering with a cold and diabetes. He ordered him to remain in bed and rest. A week later he called on McLaughlin and found him unimproved.

The witness testified that in December, McLaughlin was suffering from bronchial pneumonia and very

## Defendant Is Rebuffed By Judge

Weak. He was sick throughout December and January, 1934. The doctor said he called on his patient three times in February and twice in March and on those occasions found him in no condition to go out.

A question about McLaughlin's honesty was objected to on the grounds proper foundations had not been laid and was sustained. Rensch then laid the foundation and the witness replied, "His character was excellent and I have never heard him attacked by any one."

### Wilson Recalled.

Cross-examined by George Heisey, assistant United States district attorney, the witness said he had known McLaughlin for 30 years. He admitted he did not bring the original records of his calls to the defendant's home because he was in a hurry to catch a train.

Calls on the defendant in March were merely social calls, the witness said, testifying those calls were the only knowledge he had that McLaughlin was confined to his home. He testified in April, 1934, he talked with a great many people about McLaughlin and from those talks formed his opinion of McLaughlin's character.

James Wilson went back on the stand and Mr. Heisey immediately offered as evidence the statement the defendant had made to government officers in Chicago Sept. 7 and over which there had been such a bitter fight, the defense charging it had been obtained by third degree.

The defense objected to a part of the statement and so Mr. Heisey was instructed to use such parts as he needed in his cross-examination of Wilson.

"Did you see Berg, a package and Boss McLaughlin in room 210 of the Irving hotel?"

"No."  
"Read this paragraph from the statement," Mr. Heisey instructed the witness.

### Denies Statement.

Wilson read: "I was sitting in Dr. Moran's office one night and Ollie (Berg) called me by phone to his room in the hotel. I went there and shortly after Boss McLaughlin came in. Ollie gave him a package and said, 'I think it is all there.'"

"Is that true?"  
"No. It's all hearsay. I told Agent Brown I supposed it could have happened like that."  
"Then you didn't say that?"  
"No. Madala and Brown would ask me questions and when I couldn't answer they would make their own answers or assumptions and ask me if I thought it could have happened like that."

"Did you know what kind of money it was?"  
"No."  
"The statement you gave Agent Madala Sept. 26, was it a true statement?"  
"Here is how it happened. He had a bunch of statements from several defendants and when I started to talk to him he said: what difference does it make we know it all anyway."  
"Was the statement you gave Sept. 7 the same as that of Sept. 26?"

"It was just carried over."  
Wilson was told to read a few sentences of the Sept. 7 statement and in part, "after Boss McLaughlin received the package he walked to the door with Ollie Berg. They whispered and I couldn't hear but I formed the conviction it was 'hot' money being exchanged."

"Did you tell Agent Madala it was 'hot' money?"  
"I didn't know. I gathered it was 'hot' from what I read in the newspaper."

### Knew Money, "Hot."

"Did you tell Agent Madala it was 'hot' money?"

The court instructed the witness to answer questions without going into a speech, and the witness replied, "yes, I did" to the question. "During the week of April 22, 1934, McLaughlin call at your office daily?"

"He would call, not daily. He would ask where Dr. Moran was and I would say—'The court interrupted again to instruct the witness to answer the question without going into what he said."

"During the month of March or prior, did you visit Ollie Berg's home with Dr. Moran?"

"Probably, he was a friend of ours."

"Well when you saw Berg at the hotel rooms, did he have a gun on him?"

"He might have; his clothes had bulges."

"Was Berg a law-abiding citizen?"

"At that time he appeared to be. I didn't suspect him."

"In government's exhibit 118, I show you a paragraph I want you to read to the jury."

Reading: "I have the impression that Ollie Berg is a dangerous criminal. He carries a gun as I have seen the bulge in his pocket."

### Identifies Weaver Picture.

"For have testified you thought it was about April 19 Gibson came to the office to take you to Aurora to give George Winfield rabies treatment?"

"That's right."

"And you went back again two days later?"

"Yes."

He said he told that story to the same jury and to Madala but Madala did not use it because he did not believe it was material. The witness identified pictures of Bill Weaver, Volney Davis and Harry Campbell as men he saw at Aurora and pointed out Doc Barker as the man named Morley whom he saw with the other three.

When the witness was asked to identify the pictures of the defendants, he identified the following: Mr. Nathan, Mr. Tolson, Mr. Baughman, Chief Clerk, Mr. Clegg, Mr. Coffey, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Egan, Mr. Harbo, Mr. Keith, Mr. Lester, Mr. Quinn, Mr. Scheidt, Mr. Schilder, Mr. Smith, Mr. Tamm, Mr. Tracy, Miss Gandy.

"Yes, I had seen Freddie Barker and him to Toledo. The witness testified that he had seen Barker and Paul allases James Be son and James E. After Dr. Moran the operation of and Doc Barker pay him?"

"About \$1,000. it but I had to medical supplies."

"How long did after the operation?"

"Until the latter part of the week."

Returned To Chicago.

"How did you get back to Chicago?"

"With Doc Barker."

"When you got to Chicago, where did you go?"

"We went to Ollie Berg's. I got a room upstairs and Barker left."

"Did you tell Agent Madala you knew McLaughlin was in the racket?"

"I don't remember."

The witness was shown government exhibit 111 and read a paragraph of the statement he is alleged to have made to Agent Madala. The statement said he knew of McLaughlin's previous criminal activities.

"You read this statement before you signed it and swore to it before a notary?"

"I signed it after the agents said they would release me from custody."

The written "confession," alleged by Wilson to have been obtained from him by third-degree methods, was put in evidence after the court has overruled the defense objection.

### Knew Of Operation.

In this "confession" one of the three alleged to have been made by Wilson, the suspect is credited with saying that he knew Dr. Joseph Moran, fugitive, performed an operation on the finger tips of Alvin Karpis and Fred Barker. In the previous statement read to the jury Wilson said he did not know who the operation was about.

Wilson charged the federal agent with beating him when he could not identify a photograph of Ollie Berg another defendant. He alleged that the agents showed him a photograph of a man wearing a hat and glasses and he was unable to identify the picture as that of Berg. Agents R. D. Brown and John Madala, who are alleged to have beaten the confession out of him testified in court that the photographs shown to Wilson were those taken of Berg Aug. 22, 1934. Wilson was shown the pictures about a month later.

7-576-A

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E.A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Keith  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Schilder  
Mr. Smith  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

*Eaton*  
*HAR*

Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. E.A. Tamm ✓  
Chief Clerk ✓  
Mr. Clegg ✓  
Mr. Coffey ✓  
Mr. Edwards ✓  
Mr. Egan ✓  
Mr. Harbo ✓  
Mr. Keith ✓  
Mr. Lester ✓  
Mr. Quinn ✓  
Mr. Schilder ✓  
Mr. Smith ✓  
Mr. Tamm ✓  
Mr. Tracy ✓  
Miss Gandy ✓

THE ST. **Dispute** **KIDNAPPING BREMER** **atures**



Both of these pictures are of OLIVER J. (IEZY) BERG, harboring and money-changing defendant in the Bremer kidnaping trial, but James J. Wilson, nephew of and chauffeur for the fugitive Dr. J. P. Moran, claims he didn't recognize the one on the right when federal agents showed it to him in Chicago last fall and therefore was beaten. Disbelieving his story, Trial Judge M. M. Joyce agreed with the statement of federal agents that Wilson had been shown the picture at the left and had no trouble in identifying it.

7-576-A

# Bolton Told All To Save Self From "Burning," Snarls Freed Bremer Defendant



Cleared of kidnaping charges when dismissed Monday by the federal government EDNA MURRAY and JESS DOYLE are congratulating each other. They are happy despite the fact that Edna must return to Missouri to finish a 25-year term on a robbery charge and Doyle must face bank robbery charges in Oklahoma.

BY EDNA MURRAY.  
(As Told To A Daily Reporter)  
Byron Bolton is a sneak and a liar. He testified Monday to save his own neck. He already has confessed to the St. Valentine Day massacre and talked on behalf of the government to save himself from burning or going to the island.

For three weeks I have been paying in black for something even the government had to admit I was innocent of—that is any connection with kidnaping.

I can truthfully say that Volney Davis is as innocent of the crime he is charged with as I am. Davis is a gambler and not a kidnaper. He always has been afraid of crossing the path of Uncle Sam and during the years I have been with him he always has preached to me and told me how he does not want to violate any federal law.

Davis and the Barker boys are childhood friends. They went to school together and later had the unfortunate experience of serving in prison together.

We never saw any of the Barker boys while in St. Paul and the only time we saw Wynona Burdette and Henry Campbell was Christmas eve in 1933 when we had dinner together in a night club.

I did meet Wynona and Paula on the way to Chicago, but when Wynona says that she saw Davis in my apartment in Chicago but once she is telling a lie. While in Chicago I saw Fred Barker but once and that was when he came over to my place to ask me why I had kicked Paula out of our apartment.

I told him I couldn't get along with her.

I am glad to eat the kidnaping rap but I suppose I will be received with open arms in Missouri. I am serving a term for a crime that I never did commit. (Miss Murray escaped from Missouri state prison after serving three years of a 25 year term on charges of highway robbery.) For 16 months I was in solitary confinement there.

I haven't much longer to live. I have a serious ailment that gives me but a few years of life at the most. But if I am called on the stand I am going to tell the truth and the truth is that Volney Davis is not a kidnaper.

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Baughman  
Chief Clerk  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Foxworth  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

7-576-A



# BERG TELLS COURT OF GANGLAND DEATH THREAT

## Refused To Handle Any Bremer Cash

**Says Dr. Moran Cried  
When He Severed  
Friendship Over Kid-  
naping.**

Maintaining his innocence of any part in the snatching of Edward G. Bremer, Oliver Berg, life term convict from Illinois and one of the eight defendants being tried in United States district court here for kidnap conspiracy, told a jury today how he defied gangland death threats by refusing to handle any of the Bremer ransom money.

"I never touched one bill, good money or bad," the convict told the jury emphatically and dramatically.

The witness told the jury how he broke off a life-long friendship with Dr. Joseph Moran after the latter had deceived him about two men who hid out at Berg's home in Chicago. Moran had told Berg that the men were bank robbers but the witness later said he learned they were kidnapers.

"There were tears in his eyes when I told him (Moran) our friendship ceases," the witness said.

Berg told how he went to Chicago at the insistence of Russell (Slim) Gibson, alias Grey, after first refusing.

"I said I wouldn't and he said, 'you better go or they'll find you in a ditch.'"

Berg testified he then left for Toledo. There gangsters repeated efforts to have him exchange the \$50,000 money failed. He told how the gang tried to make him so broke that he couldn't refuse by keeping his change from a \$20 bill after he purchased drinks and by other means.

The witness said it cost him \$50 per day to live while he was in Toledo.

Despite another threat from Gibson that his life "wouldn't be worth a nickel" if he returned to Chicago, Berg said he finally obtained money for railroad fare and left Toledo for Chicago where he was later arrested.

As court opened today one of the interested spectators was Richard Arlen, movie star who is in the city visiting his parents. He absorbed

## Berg Tells Court Of Gang's Death Threats

every word that came from the witness, Berg.

Release of Bruno Austin, one of the kidnap suspects brought here from Chicago, has been ordered but he is still held pending word from Chicago officials. It also was announced today that Gov. Olson and Atty. Gen. Harry H. Peterson had approved a requisition of the governor of Missouri for extradition to that state of Edna Murray, against whom kidnaping charges were dismissed Tuesday. She is wanted in Missouri for escaping from a women's reformatory.

Oliver Berg resumed the stand as court opened today. He told of meeting Boss McLaughlin in room 211 of the Hotel Irving in Chicago and of drinking with him.

Eugene Matthews, Berg's attorney, questioned the witness.

"Did you ever touch any money?" "I never touched one bill, good money or bad money."

Berg continued his story.

"Grey (Russell Gibson) told me from now on he was boss of the money and was going to have charge of both good and bad money. Grey wanted me to go with him to get more money but I refused. I told him I wouldn't leave the hotel. After Boss had made two or three visits to the hotel, Grey again wanted me to go with him to get more money, but I refused. Grey told me he wanted me to go because Jimmie Wilson was engaged for the afternoon."

"Slim (Grey) came in one day and said they (Boss McLaughlin) didn't bring all the money back. I told him that was his hard luck not mine. About 6 p. m. that night Slim came back and we got pretty intoxicated on home made wine. Dr. Moran told me I had better come back the next day. I did and about 2 p. m. Boss McLaughlin came in. They were all excited. I said, 'well, I am going.'"

That same evening Jimmie Wilson came over with Dr. Moran. Moran was drunk. They asked me to read the paper and I seen that Mr. McLaughlin had been arrested. I got sore and told them to get out. Jimmie said he couldn't as Moran was drunk. Moran lay down on my couch and Jimmie got in my bed. The next morning I told them that was the second dirty trick they had pulled on me, once when they brought me the robbers and told me they were bootleggers and now when I find out the robbers are kidnapers."

## Threatened By Grey

"'Ollie,' he said I told you the God's honest truth. The money is from an Iowa bank. There were tears in his eyes when I told him our friendship ceases."

"About four days later, Grey came to my house and said 'you should be shot right in the head. You introduced me to those fellows. The government men traced him to his place and took his car. He was very angry and pulled a gun, so I said I didn't know nothing about it 'not any more than you do' so he left."

"About a week later I get a telephone call and the party said, 'you better get out of the house if you don't want to get hurt!' I asked him who he was but he hung up."

"A few days later I was called to a Chicago hotel and was told that Dr. Moran wanted \$900 to make up \$3,000 that he had to make good. I offered \$700 in cash and a diamond ring but he didn't take it. Grey told me I had to go to Toledo. I said I wouldn't and he said, 'you better go or they'll find you in a ditch.' I took the train and was told to register at Port Max hotel under the name of Bennett. I got to Toledo at 6:30 a. m., took a cab to the hotel. I cleaned up and went down for breakfast. About 10:30 a. m. I was back in my room and the phone rings."

"Grey told me he was coming up. When he came up he said 'don't

listen to the 'croaker' (Dr. Moran). He wants us to drive a woman to New York and buy every place for \$5 and \$10 bills and then come back with the good money.' At 11:45 a. m. Grey went downstairs and told me to be ready at 12 o'clock. He pulled up with a car and Grey, Moran and myself got in the car. We drove for about a half-hour. We pulled up to a cottage. We went through the front door. It was opened by a lady she was here (Wynona Burdette). We saw some men there with their faces and hands all bandaged. One said to me, 'how are you old man?' I don't feel so good," I answered.

## Drinks Cost \$25

"Do you know what we want with you?" Joe asked me. I think it was Joe (Doc Barker), but his head, face and hands were all bandaged up. I said no and he said he wanted me to go out and change some money. I said no, and he said, 'why not, you are just as hot as we are.' I refused and Grey backed me up. We stayed there about 30 minutes. I saw Wilson come downstairs. Doc Moran stayed there and Grey and I

I was going to sell my life work nickel if I did. wife, Clara, came. The next day I went.

"Every day we put down drinks and we change. That's about \$50 per day."

"One day we I only had one suit and I got soaked before we got 10 miles. We stayed out on an island all that day and night. About the 8th day I went down to the cottage. They asked, 'Well, by now you must be pretty broke. You ready to go out with the money?' The two who asked were the bandaged ones. I said, 'I was broke but wouldn't change money.'"

## Moran "Drunk As Wolf"

"The next night Moran came to my hotel with two quarts of bourbon and all night he drank up bottles. He wrecked the refrigerator it all apart. The next day Grey came and I told him I would rather be shot than hang around any longer. Moran was drunk as a wolf. At 11 a. m. I took the train back to Chicago."

"How much did you get from Moran?" Mr. Matthews asked the witness.

"I got \$800 and of that \$340 was what he owed me and \$460 is what he gave me. I thought it was ban robbery money."

"When were you arrested?" "August 22 and I went to the pen August 30."

"How many times did Madala visit you?"

"Three times."

## Denies Signing Statement

"Mr. Madala came in and said he got from Wilson true statements. I haven't got them with me," he said. "You better come clean."

"Were statements shown to you?"

"Yes, on his second visit. I asked him to let me read them before signed them but he wouldn't let me."

"The next time he came?"

"The last time he came to the front door office. He said, 'I have the statement ready, will you sign it.' He took a pad and pencil although he was writing. He said to me 'who are they going to believe you a rotten convict or me, a federal agent?'"

"What did you do?"

"What could I do, I was helpless."

"Were you ever in Minnesota?"

"Never."

"In Bensenville?"

"No."

- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Baughman
- Chief Clerk
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Edwards
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Keith
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Schmidt
- Mr. Schilder
- Mr. Smith
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

7-576-A

**BARKER,**

**4 OTHERS**

**GUILTY IN**

**BREMER**

**KIDNAPING;**

**2 FREED**

*Enigma*

Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Baughman	✓
Chief Clerk	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Coffey	✓
Mr. Edwards	✓
Mr. Egan	✓
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Keith	✓
Mr. Lester	✓
Mr. Quinn	✓
Mr. Scheidt	✓
Mr. Schilder	✓
Mr. Smith	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

*ES*

# Gang Leader and Berg Go Up for Life

**Boss McLaughlin, Chief of Money Changers; Alderton, Keeper of Hideout, and Wilson, Contact Man for Gang, Also Convicted—Vidler, Delaney, Who Passed Cash Acquitted.**

## JURY RETURNS VERDICT AFTER 20-HOUR BATTLE OVER GREAT MASS OF EVIDENCE

**Judge Condemns Barker to Escap-proof Federal Prison on Alcatraz Island — Mob Chieftain Is Chained to Deputy Marshal as Verdict Is Given in St. Paul Court**

Arthur (Doc) Barker, dapper co-leader of the notorious Barker-Karpis gang, John J. (Boss) McLaughlin, Chicago politician with underworld connections, and three others today were found guilty of charges of kidnaping Edward G. Bremer, wealthy St. Paul banker.

The verdict reached after deliberation of 20 hours resulted in acquittal for William E. Vidler and Philip Delaney, associates of McLaughlin who claimed in their own defense that they did not know the ransom money they were changing came from the kidnaping.

After the jury's verdict was read Judge M. M. Joyce promptly sentenced Barker to life imprisonment, meting out to the gang leader the maximum sentence that can be imposed under the Lindbergh law.

The three associates of Barker and McLaughlin found guilty are Oliver Berg, lifer at Joliet, Ill., penitentiary; Harold Alderton, Bensenville, Ill., and James Wilson, chauffeur for Dr. Joseph T. Moran, fugitive gangland physician, who is reported to have been slain by gangsters.

## **Barker, Blustering Gunman, Trembles Like Leaf as He Stands to Hear Fate**

Barker, the blustering little gang chief whose eyes never flickered as he wielded a deadly machine gun to blaze one of the most notorious records in modern criminal annals, quavered like a leaf as the verdict was announced.

His customary ruddy face, marked by scars of face-lifting operations, was pale. He shook so badly when Judge Joyce commanded him to rise to hear the verdict that the deputy United States marshal to whom he was manacled was forced to steady him.

Berg, who once before had heard himself sentenced to life imprisonment, was stolidly unshaken. Delaney and Vidler were jubilant.

The jurors immediately left the courtroom and within a half an hour were packing their bags to go back to their homes.

Even if McLaughlin had been acquitted, he would not have gone free. He faces two counts in an indictment in connection with a \$225,000 mail robbery in Chicago.

Berg was also sentenced to life imprisonment for his part in the crime. Because Berg was returned a year ago to Joliet, Ill., penitentiary to finish out a life sentence already imposed, the federal court sentence changed little for him except the hope of parole. McLaughlin, Wilson and Alderton were not immediately sentenced.

Immediately after the verdicts were read, George F. Sullivan, United States district attorney, moved for immediate sentencing of Barker and Berg.

Judge Joyce paused a moment then ordered the two men to stand. It was here that the coolheadedness that took Barker unflinchingly through one of the most sensational kidnapings in history went to pieces.

## **'People Will Not Tolerate Kidnaping,' Judge Declares as He Passes Sentence**

Turning to Barker, Judge Joyce said:

"Haven't you anything to say?"

Barker nodded in the negative.

"You have had no defense in this case," the court told Barker. "You had no way to throw doubt on your guilt. I think you had a fair trial. Kidnaping is a crime the people of this country will not tolerate. Since you have been found guilty I sentence you to serve the remainder of your natural life in prison."

"Your story," the court said to Berg, "the jury did not believe. It was a fantastic tale." He then sentenced Berg to a similar term.

The court then ordered that McLaughlin, Alderton and Wilson be placed in the custody of the marshal "for sentence in due course of time." As Vidler left the courtroom he patted Berg on the back.

## **Jurors Show Stress of Heavy Argument Over Their Verdict**

At 10:30 a.m. three-quarters of an hour before the jury's verdict was reached, a recess from the closely guarded jury room showed men of the jury with sleeves rolled up and collars open and evidently under the stress of a heavy argument over the guilt of minor defendants.

An hour earlier the jury had asked for ransom bills found on John J. McLaughlin, Jr., son of the Chicago political boss charged with handling changing of \$60,000 of the \$200,000 left by Walter Magee, contact man for the Bremer family, on a lonely road near Zumbrota, Minn.

The call for the ransom money, made for both the \$65 taken from young McLaughlin and the larger amounts taken directly from William E. Vidler, appeared to mean that the jury had already disposed of the fate of Barker, Alderton, Berg and Wilson and was dealing with the other three men.

The jury room in the St. Paul federal court building was so closely guarded that no one but guards could get within 15 feet of its door. Heavily armed deputy marshals, representatives of the bureau of investigation, department of justice, and St. Paul police formed a close ring about the panel.

Barker was handcuffed to a deputy United States marshal when the verdict was read. He was the only defendant kept handcuffed throughout the trial, which opened four weeks and five days ago.

Bremer himself was in the courtroom when the verdict was returned.

Extreme silence prevailed as the jury returned and the foreman read off each of the verdicts separately. All the jurors showed the strain of the long trial.

**Goos to Alcatraz**

The prosecution let it be known immediately after the life sentence was imposed on Barker that he will be incarcerated in Alcatraz prison, island stronghold in San Francisco bay reserved for the nation's most desperate criminals.

John J. McLaughlin, Jr., 12-year-old son of the Chicago political boss

whose career as link between officialdom and underworld ended with the jury's verdict, and Mrs. McLaughlin were in the courtroom when the jury's verdict was read.

Kathleen Delaney, daughter of Philip Delaney, shown in the evidence to have acted as McLaughlin's chauffeur but freed by the jury, was also in court. She broke into tears as the jury's action releasing her father became clear to her. Mrs. Delaney notified at her St. Paul hotel that her husband was cleared, fainting.

**Records of Guilty 5**

Brief records of the men four guilty and descriptions of the part they played in the \$200,000 kidnaping crime are:

Barker, connected with the crime through a single fingerprint left a gasoline can from which the

(Continued on page 2)



in which Bremer was driven back to Rochester and released was refueled, took a leading part in the actual slugging and abduction of the St. Paul banker.

McLaughlin, former Illinois state senator and treasury official, got the "hot" ransom money from Joseph T. (Doctor) Moran, Chicago crime surgeon, and employed Phillip Delaney and William Vidler to change the \$5 and \$10 bills for larger denominations at Chicago banks.

#### Guarded Ransom Cash

Berg guarded the ransom money in Moran's Irving Park hotel room and saw it parceled out to McLaughlin in the presence of other members of the Barker-Karpis mob.

Alderton, renter of the hideout out house in Bensenville, Ill., where Bremer was held for 22 days blindfolded and guarded by gangsters armed with machine guns.

Wilson who acted as contact man between the Barker-Karpis gang and McLaughlin, chief money changer.

#### Records of 2 Acquitted

Records of the two men acquitted and descriptions of the part the government alleges they took in the crime are:

William B. Miller, Chicago gambler and ex-convict, admitted passer of the ransom money handed to him by McLaughlin. He denied knowing the source of the money he changed. His arrest "broke" the case for federal men.

Phillip J. Delaney, political henchman to Boss McLaughlin and his chauffeur and admitted passer of \$24,000 of the ransom at one south Chicago bank. He also denied knowing where the money had come from.

Twenty-two persons were indicted by the federal government early this year—almost on the first anniversary of the Edward G. Bremer kidnapping—after a ceaseless hunt for one of the most vicious machine gun mobs in American history.

Federal agents already had cut down three of those named. A fourth had died in underworld ride fashion.

Arrest of others, including Arthur (Doc) Barker, came rapidly. All were brought to St. Paul for the trial which opened April 15.

#### Bolton Pleads Guilty

The trial opened with 11 defendants. Byron (Machinegun) Bolton pleaded guilty at the start, later turning state's evidence, testifying that he was hired to stand guard over Bremer at Bensenville.

Elmer Farmer, Bensenville tavern keeper who aided in arrangements at the hideout, was a defendant until the last day of testimony and then pleaded guilty.

Charges against three of those indicted were dismissed during the trial. They were: Bruno (Whitey) Austin, Jess Doyle and Edna Murray, Kansas City kissing bandit. Doyle is awaiting transfer to Oklahoma where he will face bank robbery charges. Mrs. Murray has been returned to Jefferson City, Mo., to complete a 25-year robbery term. Austin was not on trial with the group, having been taken into custody too late for arraignment with the other defendants.

#### Barker and 'Ma' Shot Down

Federal agents shot down Fred Barker and his mother, the notorious Mrs. Kate (Ma) Barker at their Florida hideout early in 1935. Russell (Slim) Gibson was killed by federal agents when they raided a Chicago hideout and captured Bolton. George Goetz, alias George Ziegler,

was taken for a ride in Chicago last year.

Waiting trial is Harry Sawyer, former St. Paul underworld leader, who was arrested recently at Pass Christian, Miss. He is accused as the finger man in the Bremer kidnapping.

#### Karpis a Fugitive

Fugitives are Alvin Karpis, co-leader of the gang; Volney Davis, who was captured early this year but who escaped by throwing a glass of beer into an agent's face; Harry Campbell, William Weaver, William Harrison, Myrtle Eaton and "John Doe" and "Richard Doe."

Dr. Joseph Moran, another fugitive, has been killed by remnants of the gang for attempting to flee with a portion of the ransom money, according to reports.

Bremer was seized on Jan. 17, 1934, a few moments after he had taken his daughter, Betty, to Summit school. He was struck on the head when he struggled to escape. The kidnapers drove several blocks in his car, transferred him to their own automobile and then struck out for Bensenville, 400 miles south.

#### \$200,000 Ransom Paid

Ransom letters demanding \$200,000 were delivered to several friends of the family, close personal friends of President Roosevelt. One named Walter Magee, St. Paul contractor, as the contact man. Negotiations, conducted with difficulty, finally instructed him to take the \$200,000 in \$5 and \$10 bills to a lonely southern Minnesota road.

There, upon a signal of four flashes from red lights, Magee tossed the money into the road.

Bremer, near complete collapse, was released the next day, Feb. 7, at Rochester, Minn.

The most startling evidence of the trial was given by Bolton and Wynona Burdette, former sweetheart of Harry Campbell. She is serving a five-year term in Milan, Mich., women's reformatory, on a charge of harboring a criminal.

Their testimony unfolded one of the most amazingly dramatic and inside stories of gangland ever heard in a courtroom. It was a tale of easy money, rackets, machine guns, plunders and kidnappings. Through it the government built one of the strongest cases on record against an outlaw gang shattered by the unrelenting workings of its department of justice agents.

*Minneapolis Star*  
May 17, 1935

## FIVE CONVICTED IN BREMER CASE

Barker Among Quintet Found  
Guilty—Two Defendants  
Cleared.

By the Associated Press.  
ST. PAUL, May 17.—Arthur "Doc" Barker, convicted of conspiracy in the \$200,000 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, today was sentenced to life imprisonment by Federal Judge M. M. Joyce, who imposed a similar sentence upon Oliver A. Berg, Illinois convict codefendant. The charge was conspiracy to kidnap.

Others convicted were:  
Harold Alderton, in whose home at Bensenville, Ill., Bremer was held prisoner 21 days; John J. McLaughlin, 68-year-old former political leader in Chicago, and James J. Wilson, 27-year-old former Northwestern University medical student.

Freed were William Vidler, Chicago "bookie," and Phillip Delaney, former restaurant and tavern proprietor in Chicago and intimate friend of McLaughlin for 25 years.

The seven defendants were tried on charges of conspiracy under the Lindbergh kidnap law, which calls for penalty upon conviction ranging up to life imprisonment. The prison term is discretionary with the court.

## TWO KIDNAPERS OF BREMER GET LIFE

"Doc" Barker and "Izzy" Berg  
Sentenced in St. Paul for  
Snatching Banker

ST. PAUL, Minn., May 17 (I.N.S.).—Five of the seven members of the Barker-Karpis gang today were convicted of the \$200,000 kidnaping in January, 1934, of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul bank president.

Arthur "Doc" Barker, leader of the bank-robbing kidnap gang, and his co-leader, Oliver "Izzy" Berg, Chicago rooming-house keeper, were immediately sentenced to life imprisonment. They probably will be taken to Alcatraz Prison.

The other three convicted were John J. "Boss" McLaughlin, Chicago politician; James J. Wilson, chauffeur for the fugitive physician who destroyed the fingerprints for the gang, and Harold Alderton, whose home at Bensenville, Ill., was used as the hideout, and where Bremer was held prisoner.

Three to Be Sentenced  
Federal Judge M. M. Joyce remanded these three into custody of the marshal and announced they would be sentenced in "due time."

Those freed by the jury of nine men and three women were Phillip Delaney, bartender, who was charged with aiding in changing the ransom money, and William E. Vidler, Chicago bookmaker, also accused of aiding in switching the "hot" kidnap ransom into other bills.

Byron Bolton, one of the 26 persons indicted by a Federal grand jury in St. Paul in January of this year, pleaded guilty at the start of the trial and testified for the Government that he was hired by George Goetz, to stand guard over Bremer during his captivity.

A second man who pleaded guilty at the conclusion of the defense case was Elmer Farmer, of Bensenville, Ill., tavern keeper, who aided in the hideout arrangements.

Greatest Victory  
Conviction of the gangsters was marked as one of the greatest victories in the history of the Government's long fight to stamp out the dread kidnaping evil. Authorities here were jubilant when informed of the jury's verdict, which ended fifteen months of investigation and prosecution of the suspects.

Three of those indicted in the case were cleared when the Government dropped its charges against Bruno Austin, Jess Doyle and Edna Murray, notorious as Kansas City's "kissing bandit." Four others connected with the kidnaping are dead. They are Freddie Barker, brother of "Doc"; Mrs. Kate Barker, mother of "Doc"; convicted gangster; George Goetz, known to have been a guard at the hideout, and Russell Gibson, slain by Federal agents at the time of Bolton's arrest in Chicago.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

WASH. STAR

WASH. TIMES

MAY 17 1935

# Convicted of Bremer Kidnaping, Barker Gets Life Sentence

Four of Six Companions Also  
Found Guilty; Jury Deliber-  
ates More Than 20 Hours

By United Press  
ST. PAUL—Arthur (Doc) Barker,  
leader of a vicious machine gun gang,  
was convicted on the richest kidnap-  
ing in American history today, and  
immediately sentenced to life im-  
prisonment.

Four defendants with Barker in  
the \$200,000 Edward G. Bremer ab-  
duction trial were convicted with  
him. A jury of nine men and  
three women, most of them rural  
folk, deliberated from 3 p. m. yes-  
terday until noon today.

The others convicted were John J.  
(Boss) McLaughlin, former Illinois  
state senator and Chicago politician;  
Oliver Berg, James J. Wilson and  
Harold Alderton.

Berg, like Barker, immediately was  
sentenced to life imprisonment. The  
verdict meant little to him, however,  
inasmuch as he already is serving a  
life term in Joliet Prison on a murder  
charge.

William Vidler and Philip De-  
laney, accused with McLaughlin as  
changers of ransom money, were  
acquitted. Sentences for Alderton,  
Wilson and McLaughlin were not  
immediately pronounced by Judge  
M. M. Joyce.

It was expected that Barker would  
be taken to Alcatraz Prison off the  
coast of San Francisco but the Gov-  
ernment said it would decide defi-  
nitely later.

Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Chief Clerk .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Edwards .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Keith .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Scheidt .....  
Mr. Schilder .....  
Mr. Smith .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....  
  
KIDNAPING  
BREMER

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Chief Clerk .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Edwards .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Keith .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Scheidt .....  
Mr. Schilder .....  
Mr. Smith .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....  
  
KIDNAPING  
BREMER

WASH. NEWS

7-576-A  
MAY 17 1935

# BREMER-KIDNAP JURORS OUT

ST. PAUL, May 16 (U.P.).—The case of Arthur "Doc" Barker and six others, accused of the Edward G. Bremer kidnaping, was given to a Federal court jury of nine men and three women late today.

Judge M. M. Joyce instructed that unless the jury has reached a decision during daylight, it will be locked up until 11:30 a. m. tomorrow. The court explained authorities deemed it unsafe to move the prisoners from the county jail to the court room after dark.

## Bremer Case Jurors Locked Up for Night

St. Paul, May 16 U.P.—The jury deliberating the case of Arthur V. (Doc) Barker and six co-defendants in the Edward G. Bremer kidnaping case was locked up.

Under instructions from Judge M. M. Joyce it was prevented from returning a possible verdict before 9:30 a. m. tomorrow. The jury received the case at 3:05 p. m.

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Chief Clerk .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Edwards .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Keith .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Schildt .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

WASH. POST

WASH. HERALD

7-576-F

SS



Wash. Evening Star -  
May 17, '35

## FIVE CONVICTED IN BREMER CASE

Barker Among Quintet  
Found Guilty—Two De-  
fendants Cleared.

By the Associated Press.

ST. PAUL, May 17.—Arthur "Doc" Barker, convicted of conspiracy in the \$200,000 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, today was sentenced to life imprisonment by Federal Judge M. M. Joyce, who imposed a similar sentence upon Oliver A. Berg, Illinois convict codefendant. The charge was conspiracy to kidnap.

Others convicted were:

Harold Alderton, in whose home at Bensenville, Ill., Bremer was held prisoner 21 days; John J. McLaughlin, 68-year-old former political leader in Chicago, and James J. Wilson, 27-year-old former Northwestern University medical student.

Freed were William Vidler, Chicago "bookie," and Philip Delaney, former restaurant and tavern proprietor in Chicago and intimate friend of McLaughlin for 25 years.

The seven defendants were tried on charges of conspiracy under the Lindbergh kidnap law, which calls for penalty upon conviction ranging up to life imprisonment. The prison term is discretionary with the court.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Scheidt	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Smith	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

BREMER KIDNAP BREMER CASE

7-576-A

Mr. Neill	
Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Baughman	
Chief Clerk	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Jones	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Gandy	

*St. Paul Pioneer Press*  
*May 17 1935*

# **KIDNAP CASE VERDICT POSSIBLE AT 9:30 A. M.**

**Judge Joyce to Reach Court at  
 That Time; Conflict of  
 Jurors Heard.**

Judge M. M. Joyce will return to the scene of the Edward G. Bremer kidnaping trial at 9:30 A. M. today to receive a verdict if one is reached by the jury before that time.

The nine men and three women of the jury were to resume their deliberations at 8 A. M.

Given the case at 3:05 P. M. Thursday following a charge from Federal Judge Joyce that the seven defendants may be convicted on circumstantial evidence alone, the jurors worked until 5:30 P. M., at which time they were taken to their quarters in the Hotel St. Paul for dinner. They returned to their room in the Federal courts building at 7 P. M. and worked through to 10:30 except for a five-minute recess at 9:10. They spent the night in their hotel quarters.

They will resume deliberations at 8 A. M. today, with a verdict not to be received by Judge Joyce before 9:30. The judge left the chambers at 5 P. M. Thursday with instructions that any verdict reached during the night should be sealed and presented at 9:30 A. M. today.

Shortly before the recess sharp conflict between the jurors was indicated by shouting voices that could be heard despite a blocked corridor keeping outsiders away from the room and the careful guard of two bailiffs, Earl Sinclair and Mrs. Catherine Rieger. The predominance of women's voices was taken to mean a dispute between them and the men.

Defendants, all charged with conspiracy to kidnap Bremer, are Arthur (Doc) Barker and Harold Alderton, both also accused as actual kidnapers; John J. (Boss) McLaughlin, Philip Delaney, William Vidler, James J. Wilson, all of Chicago, and Oliver Berg, lifer in the Illinois state prison.

Among spectators in the courtroom during instruction of the jury were Mr. and Mrs. Bremer, nearly the entire staff of the United States district attorney's office and a score or more of Department of Justice agents.

"You have had an arduous task to perform in the case," Judge Joyce said to the jury as he began his charge. "You have heard the evidence and you have heard the arguments of counsel, and it now becomes the duty of the court to instruct you as to the law of the case, and it is your duty to accept the law so given you by the court."

"Counsel have referred to this case as an important case. It is such. Every case is an important case because we are a nation of laws and those laws must be observed and respected."



7-576-A



# FEDERAL TERM WOULD START IF HE GOT CLEMENCY

The life sentence imposed today on Oliver Berg for the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer will start at the conclusion of a life sentence he already is serving for robbery in Illinois, Federal Judge M. M. Joyce ruled this afternoon.

As a result of the ruling, for which Berg was taken back into the court room, he is to be turned over by Federal authorities to Captain James A. Humphrey, chief guard at the Illinois state penitentiary at Joliet, who now is in St. Paul. Humphrey and his prisoner are expected to leave for Joliet tonight.

Explaining the apparently incongruous situation of one life sentence following another, Judge Joyce said that his ruling was made to "clear up a little confusion" which resulted this morning after Berg and four other defendants were found guilty in the Bremer case.

Besides Berg, those convicted were Arthur (Doc) Barker, who also received a life sentence, and John J. (Boss) McLaughlin, Harold Alderton and James Wilson, whose sentences were deferred.

The confusion in Berg's case arose from the fact that he was serving his sentence in the Joliet institution at the time he was brought here for trial in the Bremer case. It was while at liberty pending an appeal from the robbery that he became involved with the Bremer kidnapers as a ransom money guard.

## Judge Makes Statement

In making his ruling, Judge Joyce said: "In connection with the sentencing of defendant Berg this morning, my understanding is that he is to be returned to prison."

This order will preclude Berg regaining his liberty in event his Illinois sentence is commuted, or in case he is paroled or pardoned. In the court room when Judge Joyce made his ruling was William Hamm Jr., St. Paul brewer who was the victim of a previous kidnaping. He was there in connection with a civil court case. Berg, 36 years old, looked downcast as the court pronounced his sentence.

In the case of Barker, one of the kidnap gang leaders, federal authorities here were awaiting word from Attorney General Cummings as to the penitentiary where he will be sent. He was sentenced by Judge Joyce to "Leavenworth or any other institution the United States Attorney General may designate."

## Other Sentences Wait

In the cases of the other three convicted defendants—McLaughlin, Alderton and Wilson—Federal officials indicated that their sentences probably will not be imposed for several weeks. Meanwhile, they are being held in county jail, where Barker also is confined.

Sentences also are expected to be deferred for some time more in the cases of Byron Bolton and Elmer Farmer, both of whom pleaded guilty to the kidnaping conspiracy charges on which all the defendants were tried.

Two other defendants, Philip J. Delaney and William Vidler, alleged ransom money "passers", were found not guilty.

It was learned today that the jurors who decided the fate of the seven defendants deliberated long over the case of Berg. One of the jury members disclosed that three ballots were taken on his innocence or guilt and that there was "considerable discussion" of his case in the meantime.

The juror also said that considerable difficulty was experienced in reaching a decision in the cases of Delaney and Vidler, whose ransom money passing transactions were carried on under the direction of McLaughlin, a Chicago politician. The question in these cases was whether the two men knew the money they were exchanging was from the Bremer ransom.

St. Paul Dispatch  
May 19, 1935

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. T. Leon  
Mr. B. B. B.  
Chief Clerk  
Mr. C. C. C.  
Mr. D. D. D.  
Mr. E. E. E.  
Mr. F. F. F.  
Mr. G. G. G.  
Mr. H. H. H.  
Mr. I. I. I.  
Mr. J. J. J.  
Mr. K. K. K.  
Mr. L. L. L.  
Mr. M. M. M.  
Mr. N. N. N.  
Mr. O. O. O.  
Mr. P. P. P.  
Mr. Q. Q. Q.  
Mr. R. R. R.  
Mr. S. S. S.  
Mr. T. T. T.  
Mr. U. U. U.  
Mr. V. V. V.  
Mr. W. W. W.  
Mr. X. X. X.  
Mr. Y. Y. Y.  
Mr. Z. Z. Z.

St. Paul Daily News

May 17-1935

Mr. E.	
Mr. F.	
Mr. G.	
Mr. H.	
Mr. I.	
Mr. J.	
Mr. K.	
Mr. L.	
Mr. M.	
Mr. N.	
Mr. O.	
Mr. P.	
Mr. Q.	
Mr. R.	
Mr. S.	
Mr. T.	
Mr. U.	
Mr. V.	
Mr. W.	
Mr. X.	
Mr. Y.	
Mr. Z.	

### Freed Defendants Are Happy



Free for the first time in five weeks today were William E. Vidler and Philip Delaney, acquitted by a federal court jury today in connection with the conspiracy charge growing out of the Bremer kidnaping. The happy reunion was snapped in front of the federal courts building today. Left to right, VIDLER, KATHLEEN DELANEY, 14-year-old daughter of the freed man, DELANEY and HELEN CONLIFF, niece of Elmer Farmer, who pleaded guilty to the charge.

7-576-A

St. Paul Daily News

May 17, 1935

# Their Duty Done, Jurors Smile



Back to their homes and farms today went these nine men and three women, the praises of Federal Judge M. M. Joyce still ringing in their ears. Judge Joyce commended them for their fearlessness and "service to humanity" in convicting the Barker gang of kidnaping EDWARD G. BREMER. After turning in their guilty verdict the 12 went to lunch before being dismissed. Shown here just before they sat down to eat, they are, left to right, first row, HOMER BLANCHARD, Lake City, retired livery operator; MRS. ALICE HALL, St. Paul dentist's wife; MISS MAUDE BROWN, St. Paul seamstress; MISS MARY McQUADE, St. Paul former business woman; HARRY JONES, Austin, apartment owner, and FRANK BEATTY, Lake City, unemployed electrical worker; second row, ROBERT BARKHUFF, Austin, barber; WILLIAM SCHERF, Frontenac, painter; E. M. BUCKMINSTER, Lake City, retired boat builder; HUBERT FRENK, Calhoun, retired grocer; GEORGE GUTTER, Racine, farmer, and EARL L. BATEMAN, Plainview, truckman, foreman of the jury.

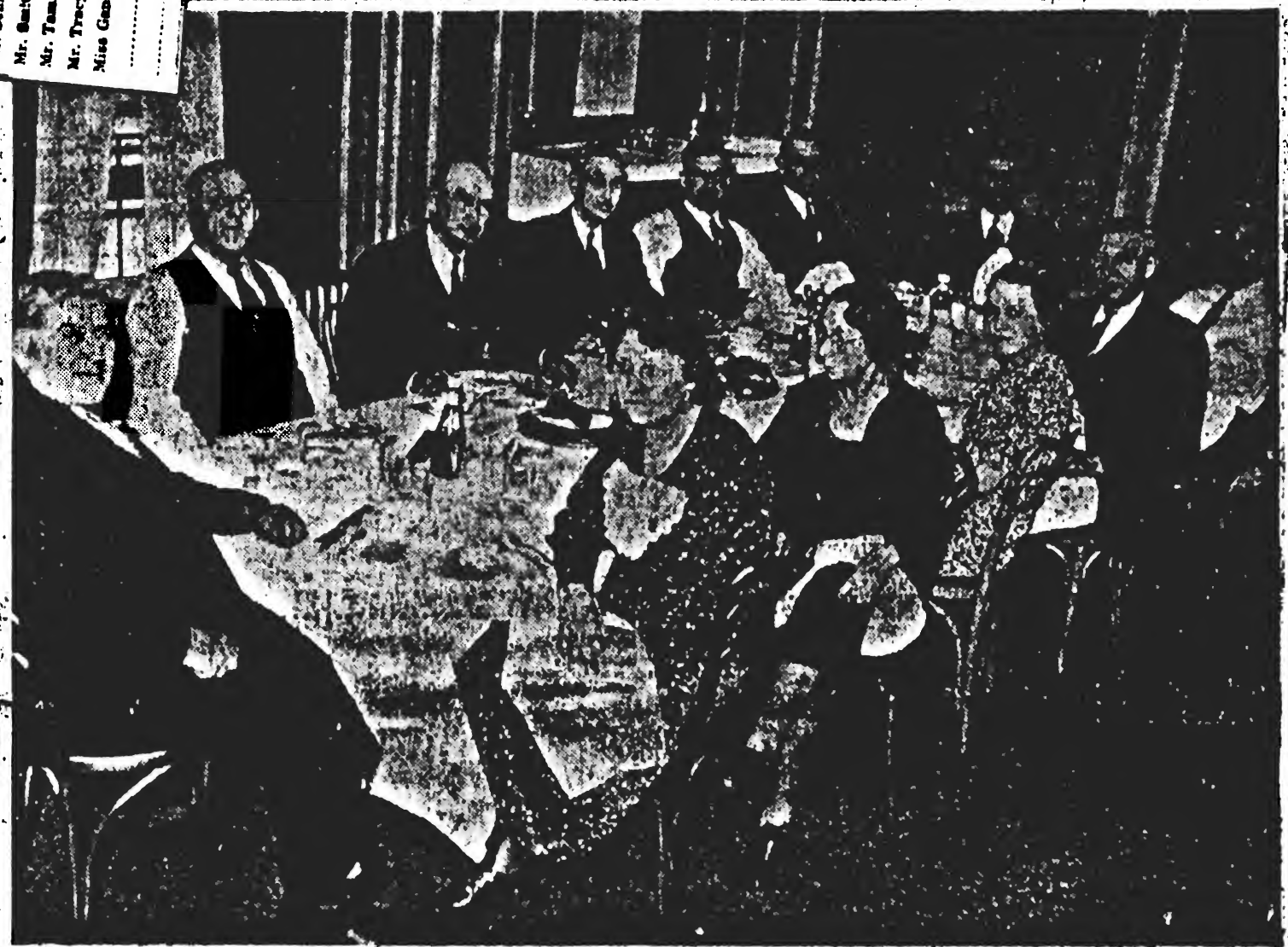
7-576-A



Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Baughman  
Chief Clerk  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Keith  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Schilder  
Mr. Smith  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

St Paul Dispatch  
7-576-A May 17-1935

# IS JURY CONVICTED BREMER KIDNAP GANG



This jury convicted five of seven defendants today in the Edward G. Bremer kidnaping case in Federal District court. The picture, first taken since the jurors were sworn in, was snapped at the Hotel St. Paul as they awaited their last lunch together, just after their discharge. In the first row, beginning with the woman on the left and reading from left to right, are Miss J. Maude Brown, 1653 Laurel avenue, St. Paul; Miss Mary McQuade, 505 Selby avenue, St. Paul; Mrs. Alice C. Hall, 681 East Wheelock parkway, St. Paul; Hubert Frank of Caledonia, and William Scherf of Frontenac. At the head of the table is George Gutter of Racine. In the second row, left to right, are Harry Jones of Austin, Frank Beatty of Lake City, Holmer Blanchard of Lake City, Earl Bateman of Plainville, Ben Buchminster of Lake City and Robert Barkhuff of Austin.

# BARKER AND REED LEAD GI SENTENCES

**Three Others, Including Chicago Politician,  
Found Guilty But Punishment Is Delayed.  
Nine Men and Three Women Ac-  
quitted—Big Victory For  
Government.**

St. Paul, May 17 (INS).—Five of the seven members of the Barker-Karpis gang today were convicted of the \$200,000 kidnapping in January, 1934, of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul bank president.

Arthur (Doc) Barker, leader of the bank robbing kidnap gang, and his coleader, Oliver (Izzy) Berg, Chicago rooming house keeper, were immediately sentenced to life imprisonment. They probably will be taken to Alcatraz prison.

The other three convicted were John J. (Boss) McLaughlin, Chicago politician; James J. Wilson, chauffeur for the fugitive Dr. Joseph P. Moran, physician who destroyed the fingerprints for the gang; and Harold Alderton, whose home at Bensenville, Ill., was used as the hideout, and where Bremer was held prisoner.

## Three Women Are Freed.

Federal Judge M. M. Joyce remanded these three into custody of the marshal and announced they would be sentenced in "due time."

Those freed by the jury of nine men and three women were Phillip Delaney, bartender who was charged with aiding in changing the ransom money and William E. Vidler, Chicago bookmaker also accused of aiding in switching the "hot" kidnap ransom into other bills.

Byron Bolton, one of the twenty-six persons indicted by a federal grand jury in St. Paul in January of this year, pleaded guilty at the start of the trial and testified for the government, that he was hired by George Goetz, to stand guard over Bremer during his captivity.

A second who pleaded guilty at the conclusion of the defense case was Elmer Farmer, of Bensenville, Ill., tavernkeeper who aided in the hideout arrangements.

## Victory For Government.

Conviction of the gangsters was marked as one of the greatest victories in the history of the government's long fight to stamp out the kidnapping evil. Authorities here were jubilant when informed of the jury's verdict, which ended fifteen months of investigation and prosecution of the suspects.

Three of those indicted in the case were cleared when the government dropped its charges against Bruno Austin, Jess Doyle and Edna Murray, notorious as Kansas City's "kissing bandit." Four others connected with the kidnapping are dead. They are: Freddie Barker, brother of Doc; Mrs. Kate Barker, mother of the convicted gangster; George Goetz, known to have been a guard at the hideout, and Russell Gibson, slain by federal agents at the time

## Judge Frames Verdict.

Judge Boyce, in commenting to the jury on their verdict, said that by verdicts such as yours the incentive to kidnap will soon pass.

When Barker and Berg stood up to be sentenced, Judge Joyce said:

"Arthur Barker, you have no defense in this case. No one could doubt your guilt. You have had a fair trial. Kidnapping is one crime that the people of this country will not tolerate."

Barker's only comment after sentence was pronounced, made to his attorney, John De Courcy, was: "The jury has the last say."

*Enfor*

*Euph*

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Chief Clerk .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Edwards .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Keith .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schmidt .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Smith .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

7-576-A

The Mobile Times  
Mobile - Alabama  
May 17, 1935.

## FIVE CONVICTED FOR KIDNAPING OF RICH BANKER

"Doc" Barker and Com-  
panion Ordered to Serve  
Life in Penitentiary

(By International News Service)  
ST. PAUL, Minn.—Five of the  
seven members of the Barker-Karpis  
gang today were convicted of  
the \$200,000 kidnaping in Janu-  
ary, 1934, of Edward G. Bremer,  
St. Paul bank president.

Arthur (Doc) Barker, leader of  
the bank-robbing, kidnap gang,  
and his co-leader, Oliver (Lucky)  
Berg, Chicago rooming house-  
keeper, were immediately sen-  
tenced to life imprisonment. They  
probably will be taken to Alcatraz  
prison.

### "Boss" Convicted

The other three convicted were  
John J. "Boss" McLaughlin, Chi-  
cago politician; James J. Wilson,  
chauffeur for the fugitive Dr. Jo-  
seph P. Moran, physician who de-  
stroyed the finger prints for the  
gang; and Harold Alderton, whose  
home at Bensonville, Ill., was used  
as the hide-out, and where Bre-  
mer was held prisoner.

Federal Judge M. M. Joyce re-  
sented these three into custody  
of the marshal and announced  
they would be sentenced in "due  
time."

### Three Women Jurors

Those freed by the jury of nine  
men and three women were Phil-  
lip Delaney, bartender who was  
charged with aiding in changing  
the ransom money, and William E.  
Vidler, Chicago bookmaker also  
accused of aiding in switching the  
"hot" kidnap ransom into other  
hands.

Byron Bolt, one of the 26 in-  
dicted by a federal grand jury in  
St. Paul in January of this year,  
pleaded guilty at the start of the  
trial and testified for the govern-  
ment that he was hired by George  
Goetz, to stand guard over Bre-  
mer during his captivity.

A second who pleaded guilty at  
the conclusion of the defense case  
was Elmer Farmer of Bensonville,  
Ill., tavern-keeper who aided in  
the hideout arrangements.

Mr. Nathan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Baughman \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Edwards \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Keith \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Lester \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Scheidt \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Schilder \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Smith \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

7-576-A

Monfleckin  
Special Agent.



## BARKER GETS LIFE AS BREMER KIDNAPER

Gang Leader Sentenced Right  
After His Conviction.

By the United Press.  
ST. PAUL, May 17.—Arthur (Doc) Barker, co-leader of the Barker-Karpis gang, was convicted by a federal court jury today of violating the Lindbergh kidnaping law in the \$200,000 abduction of Edward G. Bremer in January, 1934. He was given a life term.  
The jury deliberated for twenty hours after a five-week trial.  
Four of the six defendants on trial with him likewise were found guilty. Two were acquitted.

- Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Chief Clerk .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Edwards .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Keith .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Schildt .....  
Mr. Schilder .....  
Mr. Smith .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

7-576-A

C O  
NEW YORK POST, FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1935

## BARKER GETS LIFE IN BREMER CASE

Four Others Also Convicted in  
\$200,000 Kidnaping of  
St. Paul Banker

ST. PAUL, May 17 (AP).—Arthur (Doc) Barker, kidnap outlaw, and four codefendants were convicted and two others acquitted today by a Federal Court jury in the \$200,000 abduction of Edward G. Bremer, wealthy banker.

Convicted with the gangster, who with Alvin Karpis headed the Barker-Karpis mob, were:

Harold Alderton, in whose home at Bensenville, Ill., Bremer was held prisoner twenty-one days; Oliver Berg, lifer in the Illinois State Prison; John J. McLaughlin, sixty-eight-year-old former political leader in Chicago, and James J. Wilson, twenty-seven-year-old former Northwestern University medical student.

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Chief Clerk .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Edwards .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Keith .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Scheidt .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Smith .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

7-576-17

## FIVE KIDNAPERS OF BREMER GUILTY

### Two Defendants Acquitted at St. Paul Trial.

ST. PAUL, May 17 (A. P.).—Arthur (Doc) Barker, convicted of conspiracy to kidnap Edward G. Bremer of St. Paul for \$200,000 ransom, was sentenced to life imprisonment today by Federal Judge M. M. Joyce, who imposed a similar sentence on Oliver A. Berg, Illinois convict codefendant.

Sentence of the three other defendants was deferred by Federal Judge Joyce.

Byron Bolton, machine gunner for the Barker-Karpis mob, and Elmer Farmer of Bensenville, Ill., a tavern keeper, both of whom pleaded guilty, were not in court and will be sentenced later.

Mr. Bremer was kidnaped on January 17, 1934, and was returned to his home February 7, after the ransom had been paid. He is a banker in this city.

Barker and his four codefendants were convicted today and two others were acquitted.

Convicted with the gangster were: Harold Alderton, in whose home at Bensenville, Ill., Bremer was held a prisoner for twenty-one days; Berg, John J. McLaughlin, sixty-eight-year-old former political leader in Chicago, and James J. Wilson, twenty-seven-year-old former Northwestern University medical student.

Freed were William Vidler of Chicago, a "bookie," and Philip Delaney, a former restaurant and tavern proprietor in Chicago, and intimate friend of McLaughlin's for twenty-five years.

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Chief Clerk .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Edwards .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Keith .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schmidt .....
Mr. S. E. ...

7-576-A

## Bremer Kidnaping Case Left in Hands of Jury

### Judge Upholds Circumstantial Evidence in Hour's Charge

ST. PAUL, May 16 (P).—A gangster's fate and the future of six associates rested with a Federal jury tonight as Arthur (Doc) Barker and his co-defendants awaited a verdict which may send them to prison calls for terms up to life on conspiracy charges in the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker.

Culminating a five-week trial, Federal Judge M. M. Joyce, in his hour-long charge to the nine men and three women jurors, said evidence of proof might be circumstantial. The jury was excused at 3 p. m. to begin deliberation on the guilt or innocence of:

Barker, who, the government contends, was co-leader with Alvin Karpis, of the Barker-Karpis mob in the \$200,000 kidnaping of Bremer, thirty-seven-year-old bank president, January 17, 1934.

Harold Alderton, in whose home at Bensenville, Ill., Bremer was imprisoned for twenty-one days.

John J. (Boss) McLaughlin, sixty-eight-year-old former minor political power in Chicago, accused of being the chief in the "peddling" of the ransom money.

Phillip Delaney, restaurant and tavern proprietor and close friend of McLaughlin for twenty-five years.

William E. Vidler, "Bookie"; James J. Wilson, twenty-seven-year-old former Northwestern University student, all of Chicago, and Oliver Berg, lifer in the Illinois state prison, named as "money changers."

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Chief Clerk .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Edwards .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Keith .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Smith .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Mr. ... ..

7-576-A

# 5 Breiner Kidnaping Defendants Guilty; Barker and Berg Get Life Terms, 2 Freed

*E. J. Connelley*

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Chief Clerk .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Edwards .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Keith .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Quinn <i>ef</i> ✓
Mr. Scheidt .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Smith .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

7-576-A



**Convicted of Bremer Kidnaping**



**ARTHUR (DOC) BARKER**



**OLIVER A. BERG**



**JAMES J. WILSON**



**HAROLD ALDERTON**



**JOHN JOSEPH McLAUGHLIN**

# McLaughlin And Wilson Are Convicted

Alderton Is Fifth of Group  
Found Guilty—Vidler and  
Delaney Acquitted

JURY OUT 20 HOURS  
TO REACH VERDICT

Sullivan Asks Immediate  
Sentencing of Actual Kid-  
naper and Aid

Five defendants in the Edward G. Bremer kidnaping case were convicted and two were acquitted by a jury in United States District Court, St. Paul, today. Those convicted face maximum sentences of life imprisonment.

Defendants found guilty were Arthur "Doc" Barker, Oliver A. Berg, Harold Alderton, John J. "Boss" McLaughlin and James Wilson.

Not guilty verdicts were returned in favor of William Vidler and Phil Delaney, accused by the government of having a hand in the changing of the Bremer ransom money.

## Jury Out 20 Hours

The verdict came after 20 hours of deliberation by the jury. At 11:05 a.m. there was a knock at the jury room door and it was announced a verdict had been reached. Several hours before it had been reported the jury reached an immediate agreement on four of the defendants but that there was some argument on the other three.

As soon as it was known the jury was coming in, federal court started to buzz with activity. Court attaches and attorneys were called for. The marshal's office was told to send to Ramsey county jail for the prisoners. All was in readiness about 40 minutes later.

## Moves for Immediate Sentence

Their verdict was delivered in a tense and hushed courtroom. Then, immediately after the reading, George F. Sullivan, United States district attorney and chief prosecutor, arose and moved that sentence be imposed at once on Barker and Berg.

Judge Matthew M. Joyce sentenced them to life imprisonment in a federal penitentiary—the maximum penalty under the so-called Lindbergh kidnaping law.

It was said the government will wait until later before asking for sentences on the other three defendants convicted.

**Barker Named Actual Kidnaper**  
The verdict was given by Harold L. Bateman of Plainview, Minn., a trucking business operator who had been named foreman by his associates.

Barker, whose name was first to be read in the list of those found guilty, was charged by the govern-

ment with being one of the actual abductors of Mr. Bremer.

Berg, who is under sentence of life imprisonment in Illinois, was one of the accomplices that arranged places for the gang to hideaway.

McLaughlin, the government charged, was one of the chief money changers, and Harold Alderton kept the house at Bensenville, Ill., where Mr. Bremer was held captive.

Wilson, a medical student and associate of Dr. Joseph Moran, a fugitive, had a hand in the gang operations in Chicago after the payment of the ransom.

## No Doubt of Guilt, Judge Says

When Barker was led to the bar of the court to be sentenced by Judge Joyce, the jurist remarked: "Arthur Barker, you have no defense in this case. No one could doubt your guilt. You have had a fair trial. Kidnaping is one crime that the people of this country will not tolerate."

He then ordered Barker imprisoned in Leavenworth penitentiary for the remainder of his natural life.

Before pronouncing sentence on Berg, Judge Joyce said: "The story you told here in court was not believed one bit. It was a fantastic tale which other persons of lesser intelligence than the jury might have been swayed by."

## Jury Appears Calm

He then imposed another life sentence.

Judge Joyce was notified the verdict had been arrived at at 11:05 a.m., and it was 11:45 before the defendants could be brought from the Ramsey county jail and attorneys and court attaches assembled.

Delaney's 15-year-old daughter, Kathleen, and a niece of Elmer Farmer, defendant, who pleaded guilty as the defense resented, were among the spectators, but they were led from the courtroom by Thomas McMeekin, attorney for Delaney, before the jury took the jury box.

The jurors were unusually calm and collected for men and women who had reached a verdict in such an important case after five weeks, lacking a day, of a strenuous and bitter trial.

## Tears in Delaney's Eyes

Mr. Bateman, the foreman, handed a slip of paper to Joseph Lynch, veteran court clerk, when that official asked:

"Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, have you reached a verdict?"

The document was first passed to Judge Joyce, who scanned it to see if it was in proper form before passing it back to Lynch.

Lynch then faced the jury and in a voice that resounded through the

tense silence in the courtroom, said:

"Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, hark yet to your verdict," then reading, "We, the jury, do find Arthur R. Barker guilty as charged in the indictment."

Like a tolling bell there came the verdict for the other defendants—Berg, Alderton, McLaughlin, Vidler, Delaney and Wilson, in order.

Vidler sank visibly in his seat like a deflated balloon when his acquittal was announced and tears sprang from his eyes.

first took it without a flicker of eye and Berg paled visibly.

The other defendants made no gesture of recognition.

As Lynch concluded, newspapermen rushed for telephones and wires.

A few moments and the drama was concluded. Judge Joyce thanked the jurors heartily for their long service and complimented them on their close attentions to proceedings and sense of duty.

The jury excused, Sullivan moved for sentences for Barker and Berg. The men were led to the bar and faced the court throughout the procedure without flinching.

## Will be Held in St. Paul

It is understood the government proposes to keep the prisoners not sentenced in St. Paul for the time being while the investigation into other phases of the abduction are continued.

Delaney fell into the arms of his daughter as he emerged from the courtroom and proceeded down the hall with his arms about her shoulders, tears still in his eyes.

Vidler became the center of a congratulating crowd of attorneys and court attaches, and newspapermen for whom he supplied many interludes of laughter by his ready wit as the trial continued.

Sullivan expressed satisfaction with the verdict of the jury.

"It was a hard fought case," he stated, "and I feel the jury did a good job. Through the verdict, notice is again served on kidnapers and others that Uncle Sam has a long arm and is relentless in his pursuit of law violators. The department of justice boys who worked on the case can't be commended too highly for their successful efforts."

One of the most complicated criminal cases on record, the trial called for the combined efforts of more than 100 persons—attorneys, department of justice men, criminal experts and witnesses. It was the first case in which the federal government has attempted to convict not only the principles themselves but everyone who had any connection with the crime.

## Kidnaped Jan. 17, 1934

Bremer was kidnaped at Goodrich and Lexington avenues in St. Paul early Jan. 17, 1934, while returning from taking his 12-year-old daughter, the "Hertzy" of his ransom notes, to school.

In constant terror of his life, he was held 22 days in Bensenville, Ill., where he was kept constantly, either with his face to a blank wall or blindfolded. His release came upon payment of the \$200,000 ransom, the largest ever paid in a kidnap case in the history of the United States.

The huge sum was in \$5 and \$10 bills, 10,000 in the former and 15,000 in the latter denominations.

The first clue to the identity of the kidnapers came the day following the wealthy St. Paul banker's return home. Driving to a spot near Rosemount, Minn., where the ransom sum was paid by Walter Magee, contact man and friend of the Bremer family, federal agents found four large flashlights, used a signal Magee to turn into a side

A search of St. Paul stores revealed the flashlights had been purchased from a young sales woman who identified the purchaser from photographs supplied by federal agents as Alvin Karpis, one of the leaders of the notorious Karpis-Barker gang that spread terror through the southwest for years, robbing banks and committing murder.

At Anwar, a farmer near Fort

tage, Wis., discovered four five-gallon gasoline cans on a private road near his farm. Another farmer had seen them tossed aside after a large car stopped the day before.

A sheriff notified federal authorities and the cans started a trip to the laboratories of the bureau of investigation of the department of justice in Washington. There, investigators declared one can had on its surface the latent fingerprint of Arthur "Doc" Barker.

Further investigation revealed numerous members of the Karpis-Barker gang had made St. Paul headquarters from the middle of 1933 until the day Bremer was abducted.

Although the investigation continued to turn up new clues, it wasn't until late in April, 1934, that concrete results were obtained.

About this time, Chicago banks became flooded with Bremer ransom money which was being passed in the ordinary course of business in exchange for larger bills.

One day, after money changing operations had progressed about a week, a teller in the City National Bank of LaSalle street in Chicago became suspicious of ten \$10 bills handed him with a request for 100 bills of \$1 denomination.

Trail Leads to McLaughlin

He asked a few questions which resulted in the arrest an hour later of William Vidler, a race track follower, in a horse race booking establishment.

From Vidler, the trail led to John J. "Boss" McLaughlin, onetime state legislator of Chicago and widely known political figure. With McLaughlin, Philip Delaney, former contractor and restaurant operator, was arrested.

Between them, the three men confessed to changing approximately \$80,000 in ransom bills for bills of larger denomination in six days.

With these arrests, members of the Karpis-Barker gang fled from Chicago, going first to Toledo and then to various isolated lake resorts in the midwest.

James Wilson, the chauffeur who had worked for Dr. Joseph Moran, the doctor accused of mutilating the fingertips of "Doc" Barker and Alvin Karpis and being chief of the money changing operations, fled to Denver. Later the young medical student surrendered to the Denver office of the department of justice. He was returned to Chicago, released and later picked up again.

Wilson waived immunity and testified before the grand jury. He was one of those named in the indictment.

Wilson's arrest led to Oliver A.

Berg, who was serving a life term in the Illinois prison at Joliet. Federal agents went to Joliet and interviewed the convict.

In January, 1935, Byron Bolton and Russell "Slim" Gibson were taken by federal men at an apartment in Chicago. Gibson made a break for freedom and federal agents shot him down.

The arrest of Bolton, in turn, led to the taking of Barker. He walked into a machine gun trap as he came out of a north side apartment in Chicago. One report says the alleged "tough" gangster fainted dead away and fell on his face in a mud puddle when he saw the federal men waiting with machine guns.

Following the arrest of Barker, agents took two Bensenville men in custody—Harold Alderton and Elmer Farmer. The pair was accused of having a hand in the keeping of a gang hideaway where Mr. Bremer was held prisoner. Mr. Bremer was taken to Bensenville and identified the Alderton house as the place where he was held.

#### 22 Indicted in Case

With these investigations, the case was practically completed. The government named Fred and "Doc" Barker, Karpis, Harry Campbell, Willie Weaver, Byron Bolton, Volney Davis and Fred Goetz as the actual abductors of Mr. Bremer. Fred Barker has since been killed by federal agents and Goetz was killed in a gangland fight. Bolton has pleaded guilty and the others are fugitives.

Twenty-two persons were indicted in connection with the Bremer case. Of these, 11 went to trial before Judge Matthew M. Joyce in United States District Court, April 15. As the trial went on, the list of defendants was narrowed down

through pleas of guilty and the dismissal of charges.

At the very outset of the trial, Bolton pleaded guilty to the conspiracy charge. Later he testified as a government witness and pinned the kidnaping directly on the Karpis-Barker gang. He is now in Ramsey county jail awaiting sentence.

At the conclusion of the government's case, the prosecutors moved for the dismissal of charges against two of the defendants—Mrs. Edna "Rabbits" Murray and Jess Doyle. Mrs. Murray was taken back to the Missouri reformatory for women, from which she escaped, to complete serving a term for robbery, and Jess Doyle was returned to Oklahoma to face trial for bank robbery.

The next defendant to be eliminated from the jury's consideration was Elmer Farmer, Bensenville, Ill., tavern keeper, who entered a plea of guilty at the end of the defense's case.

This left seven defendants—Barker, Berg, McLaughlin, Alderton, Delaney, Vidler and Wilson.

The government, in presenting its case to the jury, called to the witness stand a parade of witnesses—department of justice men, fingerprint experts, principals in the case, farmers, gangsters and their associates and a score of others.

Department of justice officials and the chief prosecutors, George F. Sullivan, United States district attorney for Minnesota, and his chief assistant, George Helsley, worked months preparing the case for trial.

*Minneapolis Journal*  
May 17, 1935

DENVER ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS  
Denver, Colorado  
May 17, 1935

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Chief Clerk .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Edwards .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Keith .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Schilder .....  
Mr. Smith .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

### Bremer Kidnaping Jury Locked Up for Night

By United Press

ST. PAUL—The jury deliberating the case of Arthur (Doc) Barker and six co-defendants in the Edward G. Bremer kidnaping case was locked up for the night at 5 p. m. Thursday.

Under instructions from Judge M. M. Joyce, it was prevented from returning a possible verdict before 9:30 a. m. Friday.

Judge Joyce explained that a verdict would not be received at night because authorities deemed it unsafe to transport the prisoners from the county jail to the courtroom after dark.

E 5

7-576-A



## Pickert Pickets the P. O. to Stop Illegal Parking

Chain letter fans and Federal officials were united on one thing today—they were the victims of Police Commissioner Pickert's personally conducted drive against illegal parking in the vicinity of the Federal Building.

Incidentally, this will explain to several perplexed drivers just who the portly gentleman with the black eye-glass ribbon was who stepped up in friendly fashion Thursday afternoon and began to discuss no-parking signs and Safety Education Week.

Most of the drivers, including two Federal alcohol tax unit agents, appeared to be entirely in the dark as to the identity of their interrogator, but they all took the safe course and nodded in agreement.

It was just as well that they did, for Commissioner Pickert had along with him Supt. John P. Smith and John A. Fry, deputy commissioner in charge of safety. Their first attack was on the Wayne side of the building, where signs announce that angle parking is reserved for "U. S. Mail."

### NO TRUCKS IN SIGHT.

Not a mail truck was in sight, Pickert pointed out. The block was filled with passenger and commercial vehicles, the windshields of the former in several instances bearing neatly painted signs, "U. S. Marshal" or "U. S. Treasury" or "U. S. Secret Service."

"Fine note when the secret service advertises its identity like that," the commissioner exclaimed. "The Government ought to pay 15 cents a day for parking space in some lot for these cars. I used to do that when I was collector of customs."

He made an end run around a bakery truck to catch a driver alighting from a sedan with a handful of letters.

"What are you doing parking here when the signs say it is reserved for U. S. mail trucks?" he demanded.

"Why, the cop around the corner said I could come in here, while I mail my chain letters," replied the motorist doubtfully. "He said this spot is reserved for that sort of thing."

### FEDERAL PROPERTY.

Pickert turned to Smith, who sailed around the corner in search of the officer. Upon their return, the officer explained that "the postmaster said these spaces here and around on Lafayette boulevard were for people to park long enough to mail their letters and packages."

"He said something about this being Federal property, anyway," added the officer.

they will be reserved. There is room in front of the building for other people. We don't want to waste space here for all day parking for elevator operators or treasury agents and others. They don't deserve any special privileges."

"Pardon me, gents," interrupted a youth in a blue sweater, "will youse get back on the sidewalk where you

belong while I back in there with this car?"

That's where the investigation ended, but Peter Wiggle, assistant postmaster, said the postoffice would like to have space during the day for its customers to park, since the trucks do not arrive until 4 p. m.

"There should not be any parking anywhere in the half-mile circle," Pickert said as he got into his car. "The police are willing to abolish it."

Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Baughman	✓
Chief Clerk	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Coffey	✓
Mr. Edwards	✓
Mr. Egan	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Keith	✓
Mr. Lester	✓
Mr. Quinn	✓
Mr. Schmitt	✓
Mr. Schilder	✓
Mr. Smith	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

## 2 BREMER KIDNAPERS GET LIFE SENTENCES

ST. PAUL, May 17.—(AP)—Arthur (Doc) Barker, convicted of conspiracy in the \$200,000 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, today was sentenced to life imprisonment by Federal Judge M. M. Joyce, who imposed a similar sentence on Oliver A. Berg, Illinois convict co-defendant.

Convicted with Berg and Barker, who, with Alvin Karpis, headed the Barker-Karpis mob, were:

Harold Alderton, in whose home at Bensenville, Ill., Bremer was held prisoner 21 days; John J. McLaughlin, 68-year-old former political leader in Chicago, and James J. Wilson, 27-year-old former Northwestern University medical student. Sentence of these three was deferred by Judge Joyce.

William Vidler, Chicago hook-maker, and Philip Delaney, former restaurant and tavern proprietor in Chicago and intimate friend of McLaughlin for 25 years, were acquitted by the jury.

The seven defendants were tried on a charge of conspiracy under the Lindbergh kidnaping law.

Byron Bolton, alleged machine

gunner for the Barker-Karpis mob, and Elmer Farmer, Bensenville, Ill., tavern keeper, both of whom pleaded guilty, were not in court. They will be sentenced later. Bremer was kidnaped Jan. 17, 1934, and was returned to his home Feb. 7, after \$200,000 ransom had been paid.

7-571-KA





VICTIMS—Edward G. Bremer and his father after his return from kidnaping following ransom payment. The case was in the hands of a jury last night.

CHICAGO HERALD & EXAMINER

MAY 17 1935

## Bremer JURY *Holds Fate of Seven in Plot*

ST. PAUL, May 16.—(A.P.)  
—A gangster's fate and the future of six associates rested with a federal jury tonight.

Arthur ("Doc") Barker and his co-defendants awaited a verdict which may send them to prison for terms up to life on conspiracy charges in the Edward G. Bremer \$200,000 kidnaping in January, 1934.

Late tonight the jury retired to their hotel rooms, apparently without reaching verdicts, after deliberations of nearly eight hours.

Culminating a five weeks' trial, Federal Judge M. M. Joyce, in his hour-long charge to the nine men and three women jurors, said evidence of proof might be circumstantial. The jury was excused at 8 p. m. In addition to Barker the following are defendants:

Harold Alderton, in whose home at Bensenville, Ill., Bremer was imprisoned.

John J. ("Boss") McLaughlin, 48-year-old former Chicago politician, accused of "peddling" the ransom money.

Philip Delaney, tavern proprietor; William F. Vidler, "bookie"; James J. Wilson, 27, former Northwestern University student; Oliver Berg, lifer in the Illinois state prison.

Byron Bolton and Elmer Farmer, two other defendants who participated in the actual abduction, pleaded guilty and will be sentenced after the jury reports on the other cases.

CHICAGO HERALD & EXAMINER

# FATE IN BALANCE

*McLaughlin Waits  
Bremer Case Verdict*

JURY  
OUT



CHICAGOAN—John J. ("Boss") McLaughlin, defendant in the Bremer kidnap trial, whose plea for dismissal of charges was denied last night as the case went to the jury.

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Chief Clerk .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Edwards .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Keith .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Schmidt .....  
Mr. Schilder .....  
Mr. Smith .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

CHICAGO HERALD & EXAMINER

7-576-A

MAY 17 1935

CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER

May 17, 1935

**BARKER JURY LOCKED UP**

Judge Prohibits Night Verdict, Fear-  
ing to Move Prisoners Then.

ST. PAUL, May 18.—The jury de-  
liberating the case of Arthur (Doc)  
Barker and six co-defendants in the  
Edward G. Bremer kidnaping case  
was locked up for the night at 8 p. m.

Under instructions from Judge M.  
M. Joyce, it was prevented from re-  
turning a possible verdict before  
9:30 a. m. tomorrow. The jury re-  
ceived the case at 3:35 p. m. Judge  
Joyce explained that a verdict would  
not be received at night because  
authorities deemed it unsafe to  
transport the prisoners to the court  
room after dark.

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Chief Clerk .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Edwards .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Keith .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Smith .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

E S

7-576-A

## Bremer Trial Jury Debates Fate of Seven

St. Paul, Minn., May 16.—[Special.]—The case of seven men charged with conspiracy in the \$200,000 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer was placed in the hands of the jury of nine men and three women this afternoon in United States District court here following almost five weeks of trial.

The jury late tonight retired to their hotel rooms, apparently without reaching verdicts in the cases of all the defendants after deliberations of nearly eight hours.

Previous to the charge to the jury by Judge M. M. Joyce, George F. Sullivan, United States district attorney, demanded that every defendant who had been shown to be connected with either the abduction or changing of the ransom money be found guilty.

Meanwhile the defendants, Arthur [Doc] Barker and Harold Alderton, charged with the actual kidnaping; John J. [Boss] McLaughlin, Oliver Berg, William Vidler, Phillip Delaney and James Wilson, the latter five charged with part in disposing of the ransom bills, were remanded to jail to await the verdict.

### See Long Deliberation.

Little hope was held out for a speedy decision in view of the great mass of evidence which must be considered.

The jury was asked only to pass on the guilt or innocence of each of the defendants, the verdict prepared for their signature being in that form.

Barker and Alderton face life sentences if convicted. The accused money changers, whose defense lay chiefly in the contention that they were not aware they were handling Bremer ransom money, each face terms ranging from one hour to life, the length of the sentence being discretionary with the court.

### Refers to Defense Statement.

In opening, Sullivan referred to a statement previously made by defense counsel that the prosecutors owed their appointments to politics.

"Why is it when officers of the government do their duty they are subjected to such attacks?" Sullivan commented.

He then followed somewhat the line of attack taken by his assistant, George Halsey, in the opening argument Monday, defining the meaning of conspiracy as applied to the kidnaping, and by pointing out that the government contended the various defendants were implicated in separate phases of the case, the kidnaping itself, arranging to have Bremer kept in a hideout, and finally by exchanging the ransom money.

### Judge's Charge to Jury.

"If the conspiracy has been established," Judge Joyce said in his charge, "then any act committed by any defendant in furtherance of the scheme or looking to the execution thereof during continuance of the conspiracy is regarded in law as the act of each of those joining therein."

"Conviction may be had upon circumstantial evidence," he said, "but to warrant such conviction the proven fact must not only be consistent with the hypothesis of guilt and point surely in the general direction of guilt by must clearly and satisfactorily exclude every other reasonable hypothesis except that of guilt."

"You are instructed that in this case the evidence tends to show that it was the purpose of the alleged conspirators not only to obtain the ransom money but in such form that it could be readily exchanged. Therefore, as long as any of the ransom money was in the hands of the alleged conspirators and they were continuing their efforts to exchange the same, the conspiracy was in full force as to such conspirators."

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Chief Clerk .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Edwards .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Keith .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Schilder .....  
Mr. Smith .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

25

7-576-A

CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE

MAY 17 1935



**BARKER**

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Chief Clerk .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Edwards .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Keith .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Schilder .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Gandy .....

**AND 4 GUILTY**

**IN BREMER  
KIDNAPING**

7-576-A

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

MAY 17 1935

## FOUND GUILTY IN KIDNAPING



ST. PAUL, MINN.—John J. ("Boss") McLaughlin of Chicago, former Illinois state legislator, and Arthur ("Doc") Barker (at bottom), coleader of the famous Barker-Karpis gang.

McLaughlin photo by a staff photographer; Barker by The Associated Press.

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS  
MAY 17 1935

# M'LAUGHLIN CONVICTED OF \$200,000 PLOT

Gang Leader and Berg Get  
Life Terms; Two  
Acquitted.

**HURY OUT 21 HOURS**

St. Paul, Minn., May 17.—(UP)—Arthur ("Doc") Barker, machine-gun leader of a vicious gang, today was convicted of the richest kidnaping in American history and immediately sentenced to life imprisonment.

Four defendants with Barker in the \$200,000 Edward G. Bremer abduction trial were found guilty with him. A jury of nine men and three women, most of them rural folk, deliberated from 3 p. m. yesterday until noon today before arriving at the verdict.

The others convicted were John J. ("Boss") McLaughlin, former Illinois state representative and Chicago politician; Oliver Berg, James J. Wilson and Harold Alderton.

Berg, like Barker, immediately was sentenced to life imprisonment. The verdict meant little to him, however, inasmuch as he already is serving a life term in Joliet prison on a murder charge.

## Three Not Yet Sentenced.

William Vidler and Philip Daney, accused with McLaughlin as changers of ransom money, were acquitted.

Sentences for Alderton, Wilson and McLaughlin were not immediately pronounced by Judge M. M. Joyce.

It was expected that Barker would be taken to Alcatraz prison, off the coast of San Francisco, but the government said it would decide that later.

Barker was handcuffed to a deputy United States marshal when the verdict was read. He was the only defendant kept manacled throughout the trial, which opened four weeks and five days ago.

## Bremer Hears Verdict.

Bremer himself was in the courtroom for the verdict.

Extreme silence prevailed as the jury returned and the foreman read each verdict separately. All the jurors showed the strain of the long trial.

In its testimony, the government had sought to show that Barker was one of the actual kidnapers. The others were accused either of aiding the gangsters at their hideout in Bensenville, Ill., or in changing ransom money.

The defense contended that Barker had not been linked definitely with the abduction, and that the others were dupes of the gangsters, working with them either in ignorance of the crime or in fear of death if they disobeyed.

Mrs. McLaughlin and her son, himself once arrested as a money changer and later released, were in the courtroom.

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

MAY 17 1935

## JURY RESUMES DELIBERATIONS IN BREMER CASE

Fate of 'Doc' Barker and  
Six Codefendants in  
Balance.

St. Paul, Minn., May 17.—(AP)—The Bremer kidnap jury today resumed deliberations of the cases of Arthur ("Doc") Barker and six others charged with conspiracy to kidnap Edward G. Bremer, wealthy St. Paul banker, after failing to reach verdicts in nearly eight hours of discussion.

The fate of the defendants was placed in the hands of the jurors in the federal District court late yesterday after testimony and arguments of nearly five weeks. The jury retired with indications agreements had not been reached as to the guilt or innocence of all the defendants. It was reported, however, that the jurors agreed on several of the defendants.

The defendants, subject to terms ranging up to life imprisonment upon conviction under the Lindbergh law, are, in addition to Barker, Harold Alderton, who furnished the house in Bensenville, Ill., where Bremer, it is alleged, was imprisoned twenty-one days; John J. ("Boss") McLaughlin, Chicago politician; William Vidler, bookmaker; Philip Delaney, Chicago, restaurant proprietor; James J. Wilson, former Northwestern university medical student, and Oliver Berg, hfer in prison at Joliet, Ill.

Judge M. M. Joyce, in his charge to the jury, told the jurors they could consider circumstantial evidence as sufficient to convict, if they were satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that the five alleged money changers—McLaughlin, Delaney, Vidler, Berg and Wilson—had knowledge they were "peddling" Bremer ransom money.

The government charged McLaughlin, through the agency of the other money changers, distributed \$7,000 of the \$200,000 paid for the release of the banker, Bremer was kidnaped in 1934.

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Chief Clerk .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Edwards .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Keith .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Schilder .....  
Mr. Smith .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

7-576-F

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

MAY 17 1935

# JUDGE DEFERS SENTENCE OF OTHERS

7 Defendants Show No  
Emotion While  
Verdict Is Read

ST. PAUL, May 17.—(A.P.)—Arthur ("Doc") Barker, kidnap outlaw, and four co-defendants were convicted and two others acquitted today by a federal court jury in the \$200,000 abduction of Edward G. Bremer, wealthy banker.

The charge was conspiracy to kidnap.

Barker and Oliver A. Berg, Illinois convict, were sentenced to life imprisonment by Federal Judge J. M. Joyce.

Sentence of the other three defendants convicted was deferred.

Also convicted were:

Harold Alderton, in whose home at Bensenville, Ill., Bremer was held prisoner twenty-one days; John J. ("Boss") McLaughlin, 68-year-old former political leader in Chicago; and James J. Wilson, 37-year-old former Northwestern University medical student.

**VIDLER ACQUITTED.**—Fred were William Vidler, Chicago "bookie," and Philip Delaney, former restaurant and tavern proprietor in Chicago and intimate friend of McLaughlin for twenty-five years.

The seven defendants were all tried on a charge of conspiracy under the Lindbergh kidnap law, which calls for penalty upon conviction ranging up to life imprisonment.

Byron Bolton, alleged machine gunner for the Barker-Karpis mob, and Elmer Farmer, Bensenville, Ill., tavern keeper, both of whom pleaded guilty, were not in court and will be sentenced later.

Bremer was kidnaped January 17, 1934, and was returned to his home February 7, after \$200,000 ransom had been paid.

**PRAISES VERDICT.**—

Judge Joyce, commenting to the jury on their verdict, said:

"By verdicts such as yours the incentive to kidnap will soon pass."

When Barker and Berg stood up to be sentenced, Judge Joyce said:

"Arthur Barker, you have no defense in this case. No one could doubt your guilt. You have had a fair trial. Kidnaping is one crime that the people of this country will not tolerate."

Judge Joyce then sentenced Barker and Berg to "Leavenworth or any other institution the United States attorney may designate, for the rest of their natural lives."

Except Philip Delaney, none of the prisoners displayed emotion on the reading of the verdict.

Before pronouncing sentence on Berg, Judge Joyce said to him:

"The story you told was not believed one bit. It was a fantastic tale which other persons of larger intelligence than the jury might have been swayed by."

THE CHICAGO AMERICAN

MAY 17 1935



**M'LAUGHLIN,**

**BARKER**

**GUILTY**

*ES*

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Mr. Smith	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

*7-576-A*

THE CHICAGO AMERICAN

MAY 17 1935

**Convict 5 Bremer**

**Kidnapers;**

**2 Get Life**

THE CHICAGO AMERICAN

— 1935

GUILTY IN KIDNAPING



John J. ("Boss") McLaughlin, 68-year-old former Chicago politician, convicted as Bremer kidnaper.

THE CHICAGO AMERICAN  
MAY 17 1934

Mr. Nathan ☒  
 Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Baughman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief Clerk \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Edwards \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Keith \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Lester \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Quinn \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Schilder \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Smith \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*Eap*

*ES*

*Eg*

*Richmond*

ADD BARKER, STPAUL

FOUR OF THE SIX DEFENDANTS ON TRIAL WITH HIM WERE FOUND GUILTY.

THEY WERE: JOHN J. (BOSS) MCLAUGHLIN, OLIVER BERG, HAROLD ALDERTON,  
AND JAMES J. WILSON.

ACQUITTED WERE JAMES VIDLER AND PHILIP DELANEY.

5/17 QN1254P J

7-576-A

- Mr. Ba  
 Chief Clk  
 Mr. Clegg  
 Mr. Coffey  
 Mr. Edwards  
 Mr. Egan  
 Mr. Harbo  
 Mr. Keith  
 Mr. Lester  
 Mr. Quinn  
 Mr. Schilder  
 Mr. Schilder  
 Mr. Smith  
 Mr. Tamm  
 Mr. Tracy  
 Mr. Gandy

*EAM*

*Richard*

ST. PAUL--AFTER 20 HOURS DELIBERATION, THE JURY IN THE BREMER KIDNAPING TRIAL ANNOUNCED AT NOON THAT IT HAD REACHED A VERDICT. JUDGE M. M. JOYCE WAS SUMMONED IMMEDIATELY. IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE SEVEN DEFENDANTS WOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE COURTROOM WITHIN HALF AN HOUR TO HEAR THE VERDICT.

5/17 PN1228P J

WAT 1632 64



7-576-#



Mr. Nathan .....  
 Mr. Tolson .....  
 Mr. Parsons .....  
 Mr. Clegg .....  
 Mr. Coffey .....  
 Mr. Edwards .....  
 Mr. Egan .....  
 Mr. Harbo .....  
 Mr. Rosen .....  
 Mr. Tracy .....  
 Mr. Quinn .....  
 Mr. Nease .....  
 Mr. Schuler .....  
 Mr. Smith .....  
 Mr. Tamm .....  
 Mr. Tamm .....  
 Mr. Tamm .....  
 Miss Gandy .....  
 Richmond

Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_  
*E. J. Redmond*

STPAUL--ARTHUR (DOC) BARKER WAS CONVICTED TODAY OF VIOLATING  
THE LINDBERGH KIDNAPING LAW

WYAT 1632 EM

33

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Chief Clerk .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Edwards .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Keith .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Scheidt .....  
Mr. Schilder .....  
Mr. Smith .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....  
.....  
.....

ADD BARKER, STPAUL

BARKER WAS SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

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ES

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson.....  
Mr. Laughman  
Chief Clerk  
Mr. Clegg.....  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Edwards.....  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Keith  
Mr. Lester.....  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Scheidt ✓  
Mr. Schilder  
Mr. Smith  
Mr. Tamm

Mr. Tracy;  
Miss Gandy;

## Similar Term Imposed on One Confederate—Two Freed by Jury

ST. PAUL, May 17.—(P)—Arthur "Doc" Barker, convicted of conspiracy in the \$300,000 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, Friday was sentenced to life imprisonment by Federal Judge M. M. Joyce who imposed a similar sentence upon Oliver A. Berg, Illinois convict co-defendant.

The charge was conspiracy to kidnap.

Convicted with the gangster who with Alvin Karpis headed the Barker-Karpis mob were:

Harold Alberton, in whose home at Bensenville, Ill., Bremer was held prisoner 21 days; Oliver Berg, wifer in the Illinois state prison; John J. McLaughlin, 68-year-old former political leader in Chicago, and James J. Wilson, 27-year-old former Northwestern University medical student. Freed were William Vidler, Chicago

(Turn to Page 18, Column 7)

"bookie" and Philip Delaney, former restaurant and tavern proprietor in Chicago and intimate friend of McLaughlin for twenty-five years.

The seven defendants were tried on a charge of conspiracy under the Lindbergh kidnap law, which calls for penalty upon conviction ranging up to life imprisonment. The prison term is discretionary with the court.

Sentence of the other three defendants was deferred by Federal Judge Joyce.

Byron Bolton, alleged machine gunner for the Barker-Karpis mob, and Elmer Farmer, Bensenville, Ill., tavern keeper, both of whom pleaded guilty, were not in court and will be sentenced later.

Bremer was kidnaped January 17, 1934, and was returned to his home February 7, after \$200,000 ransom had been paid.

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